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**ACTION
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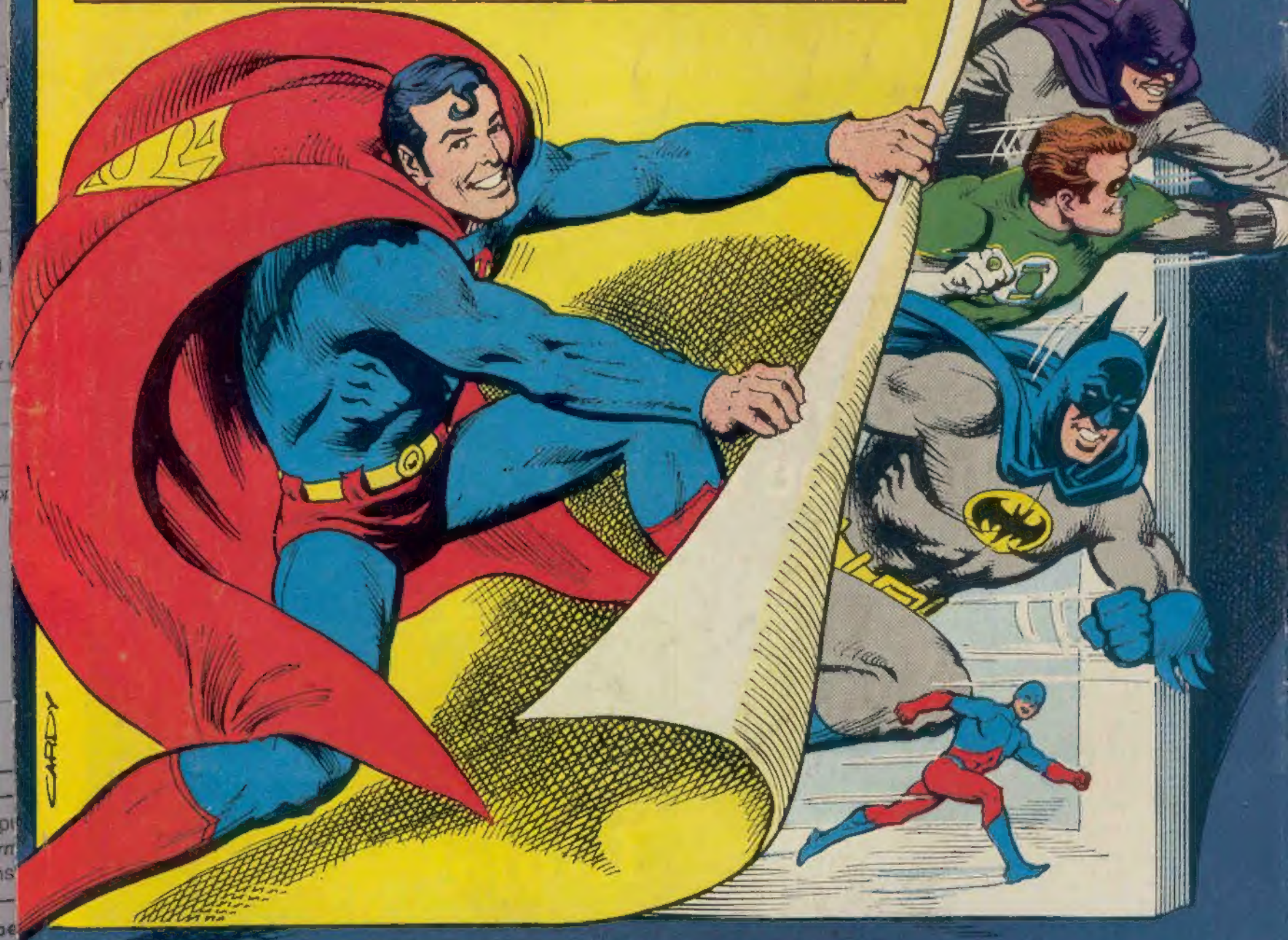


ACTION COMICS

NO. 443
JAN.
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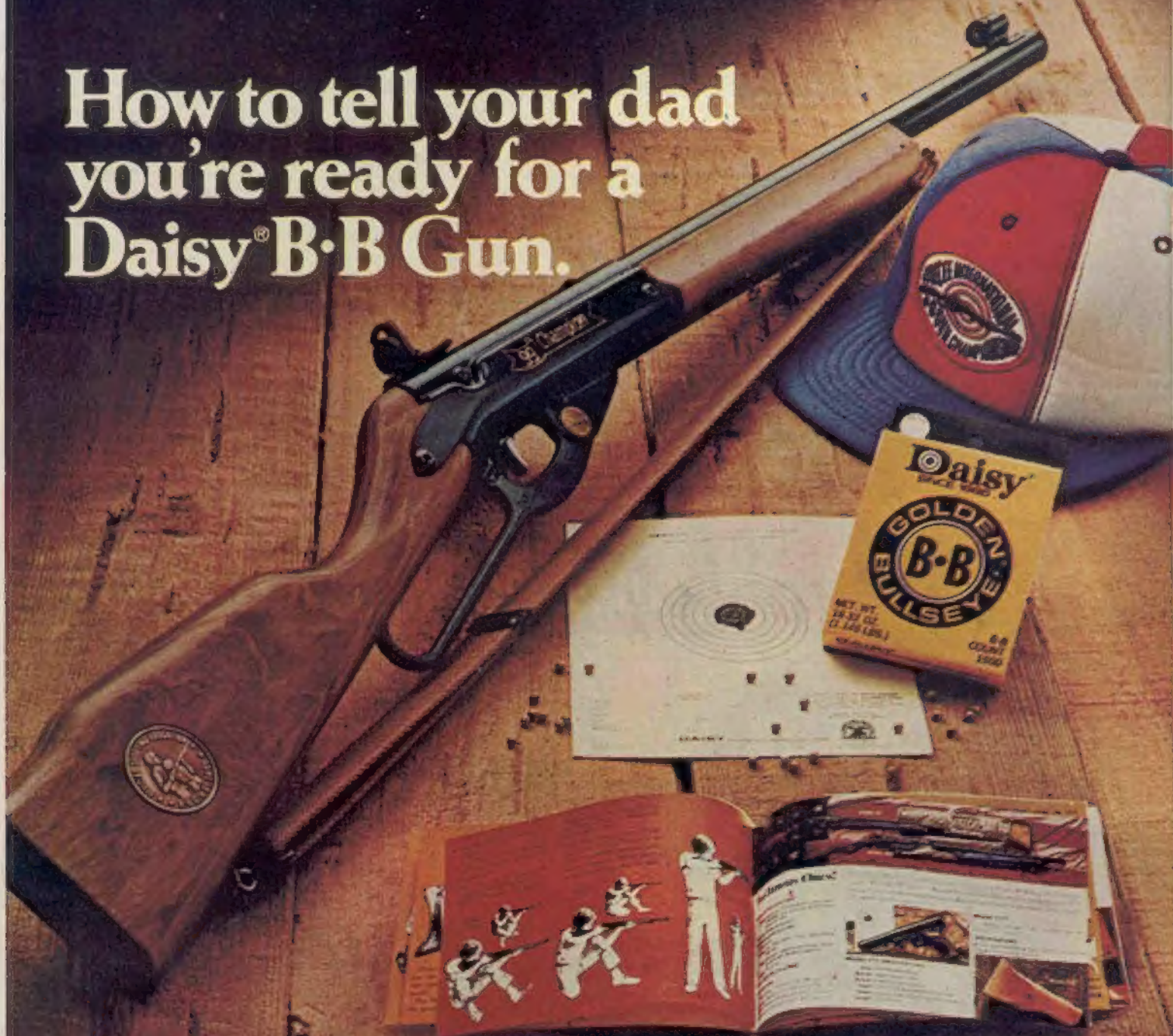


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ACTION COMICS

JAN. NO. 443
COVER: NICK CARDY

HERE ARE SIX THRILLERS
WITH THE ACCENT ON
ACTION!

A **NEW** ADVENTURE OF

SUPERMAN

Guest-Starring the
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
AND **NINE ARCH-VILLAINS...**

"AT LAST...
CLARK KENT, SUPER-HERO!"

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THE **SEA DEVILS**
ARE HAUNTED BY
"THE **GHOST**
of the **DEEP!**"

PAGE 26

MATT SAVAGE,
TRAIL BOSS
FACES A
"REVOLT IN
PAINTED CANYON"
PAGE 43

AN EXPERIMENT ON
THE PLANET **RANN**
HAS A MIND-BOGGLING
RESULT...

"THE **SUPER-BRAIN** of
ADAM STRANGE!"

PAGE 56

HAWKMAN

SETS OUT TO STOP THE
"AMAZING THEFTS
OF THE
I.Q. GANG!"

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THE
BLACK PIRATE
DISCOVERS A SCHEME
TO STEAL THE
"THRONE of
SPAIN!"

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SUPER-PUZZLE
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7 SEAS!
PAGE 24

SUPERMAN in ACTION
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PRESENTING A NEW FULL-LENGTH ADVENTURE OF THE ACTION ACE

SUPERMAN

IT'S 6 P.M.--
AND ON
TELEVISION
SCREENS
ACROSS
METROPOLIS
RERUNS
GO OFF
AND LOCAL
NEWS
REPORTS
BEGIN...

ALL RIGHT, BOYS,
STAR TREK'S OVER!

YOU GOING TO LET
YOUR OLD DAD WATCH
THE NEWS NOW?

YECCH--
NEWS!

CAN'T UNDERSTAND
HOW GROWNUPS CAN
SIT AN' WATCH SOME
FOSSIL READING FROM
A PIECE OF PAPER!

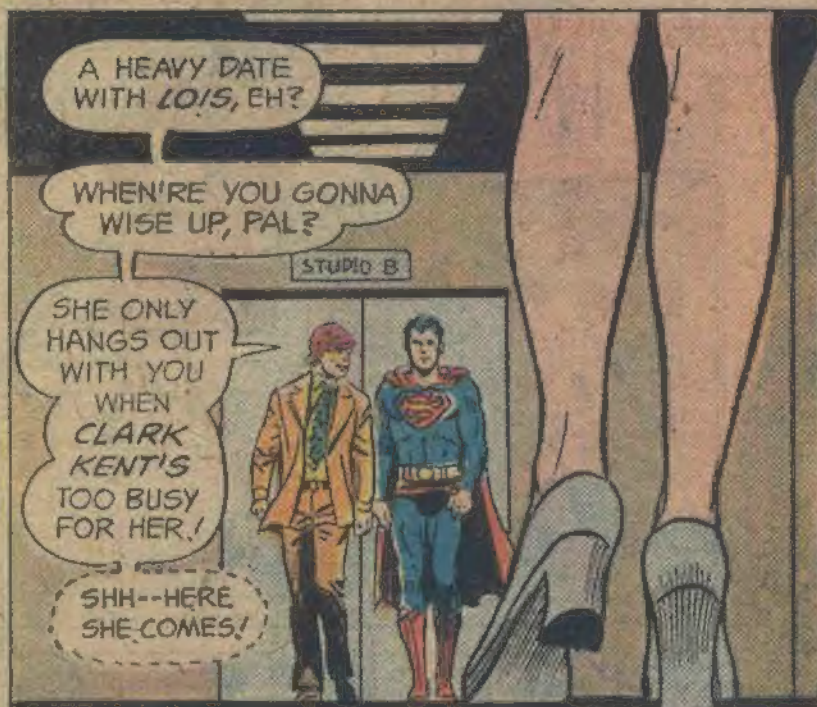
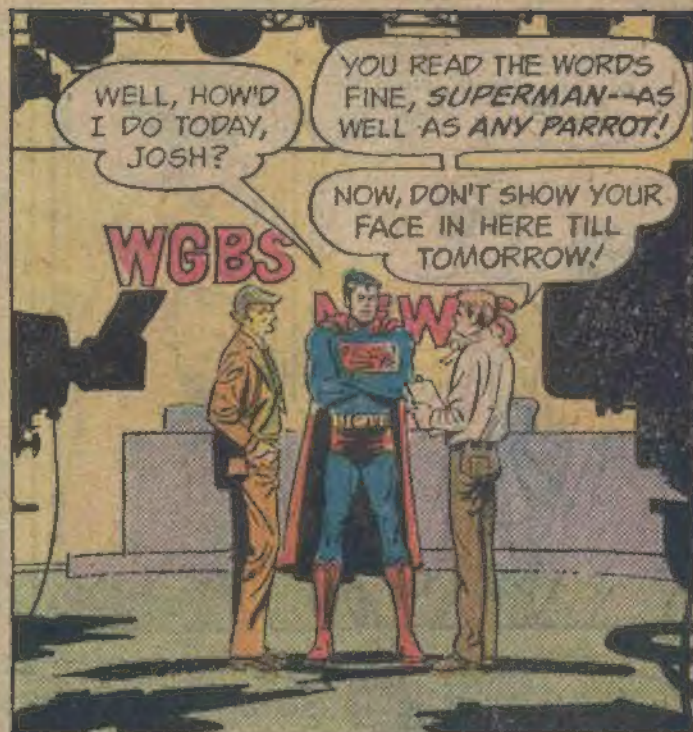
SO AS DARKNESS DRIBBLES LIKE SYRUP OVER THE CITY, MILLIONS
TUNE THEIR SETS TO SEE THE FAMILIAR SIGHT OF...

...SUPERMAN WITH
THE 6 O'CLOCK
WGBS NEWS!

SUPERMAN
WITH THE NEWS?!?
THAT'S CLARK KENT'S
JOB! BUT THIS ISN'T
THE ONLY EYE-OPENER
WHEN A BAND OF
SUPER-VILLAINS
CHALLENGES A
LEAGUE OF
SUPER-HEROES...
AND OVER THE
STREETS OF
METROPOLIS
WE SEE...

**"AT
LAST!
CLARK
KENT--
SUPER-
HERO!"**

STORY BY ELLIOT S. MAGGIN
ART BY: CURT SWAN & TEX B. BODDLE
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ







WH-WHAT'D I TRIP OVER?

YOUR FEET, GRIZZLY BEAR!

EH, HAVE A NICE FALL, STEVE?

WAITAMINNIT! WE HAVEN'T GONE MAD--AND NEITHER HAVE YOU! SO FAR, WE'VE SEEN **SUPERMAN** TAKE OVER **CLARK KENT'S** LIFE--INCLUDING HIS FRIENDS, HIS JOB, AND HIS TROUBLES! YOU HAVEN'T MISSED ANYTHING--IT'S **REALLY** HAPPENING... BUT IF YOU'RE CONFUSED NOW, WATCH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

I DO WISH YOU'D BE MORE **ASSERTIVE, SUPERMAN...** AND NOT LET THAT **BRAINLESS SPORTSCASTER** WALK ALL OVER YOU!

UH-OH--MY **X-RAY VISION** DETECTS TROUBLE! TIME TO DITCH **LOIS--**



...SO I CAN SWITCH COSTUMES AND GET AFTER THOSE **BEE-MEN** ROBBING THE BANK ACROSS THE STREET!



OH--THERE ARE **SEVEN** PEOPLE IN THE ELEVATOR! FIRE REGULATIONS SAY THESE ELEVATORS CAN ONLY CARRY **EIGHT**!

YOU GO DOWN ALONE, LOIS! I'LL MEET YOU LATER IN THE **LOBBY**!

B-BUT, **SUPERMAN**!



WITHIN SECONDS, THE STREETS OF **METROPOLIS** ECHO WITH A WELL-KNOWN CRY...

LOOK!--UP IN THE SKY!

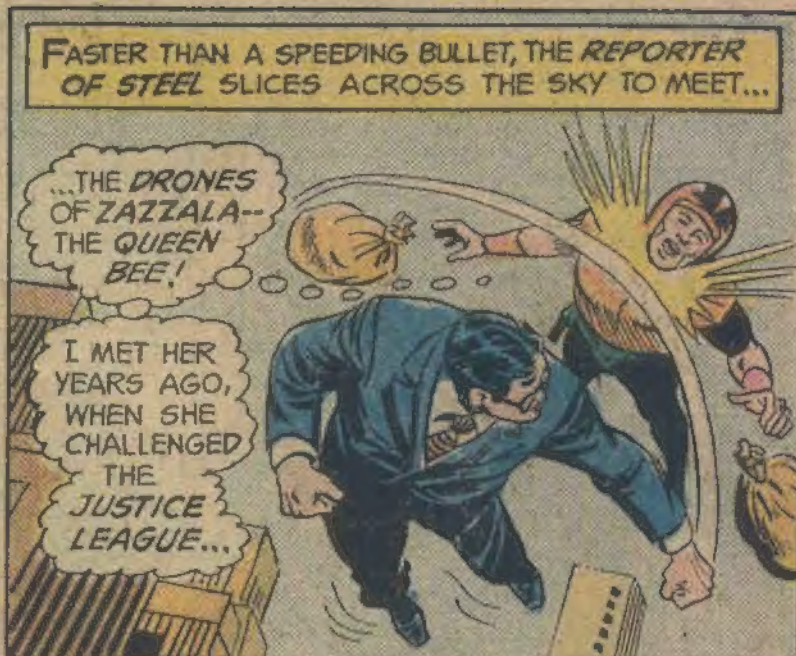
IT'S A **BIRD**!

IT'S A **PLANE**!

HOLD YOUR BREATH! HERE IT COMES--



IT'S CLARK KENT!



FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET, THE REPORTER OF STEEL SLICES ACROSS THE SKY TO MEET...

...THE DRONES OF ZAZZALA-- THE QUEEN BEE!

I MET HER YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE CHALLENGED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...



"...AND TRIED TO MAKE US ALL HER SLAVES IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!"

"SHE MUST BE BEHIND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY FELLOW JLA MEMBERS!"

FROM THIS TIME ON, YOU SHALL OBEY ONLY THE COMMANDS OF ZAZZALA-- QUEEN BEE OF KORLL!



DISAPPEARANCE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE? MORE ON THAT AFTER AWHILE-- BUT FIRST...



BUSY LITTLE BANK-ROBBING BEES, AREN'T YOU?

MR. KENT-- LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!



BUT TUMBLING OVER AND BRINGING HIS HEAVY MONEY SACK WITH HIM, CLARK MEETS THE THREAT HEAD-ON...

NO PROBLEM, OFFICER--

--MY SUPER-HEARING DETECTED THIS BEE-MAN BUZZING AROUND BEHIND ME!



...AND I'VE USED HIM TO STRIKE OUT THE OTHER THREE!

BUT BEFORE THE BESPECTACLED CRUSADER CAN GATHER HIS DEFEATED FOES TOGETHER...

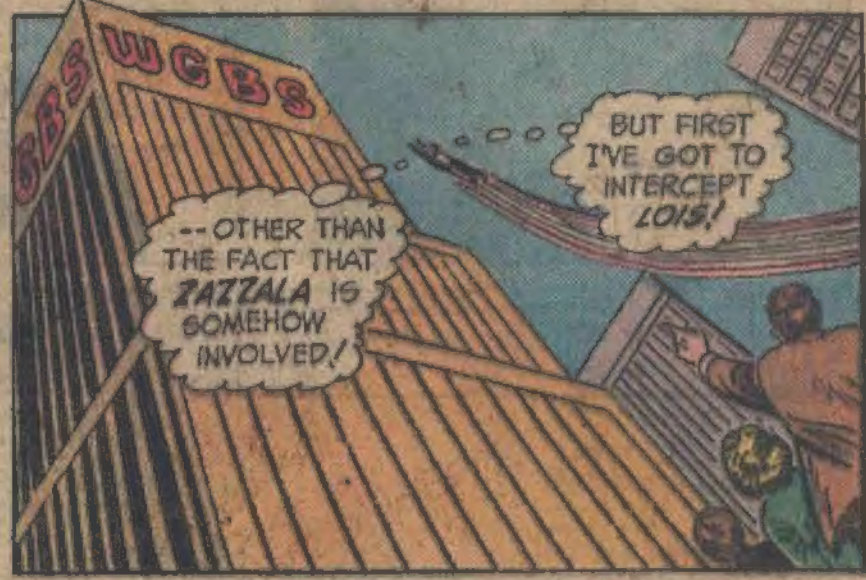
TH-THEY'RE DISAPPEARING...?!
THEY WERE SENT BY THE QUEEN BEE, ALL RIGHT--



--SHE HAS THE NASTY HABIT OF DOING AWAY WITH HER LACKEYS THE MOMENT THEY FAIL ON A MISSION!

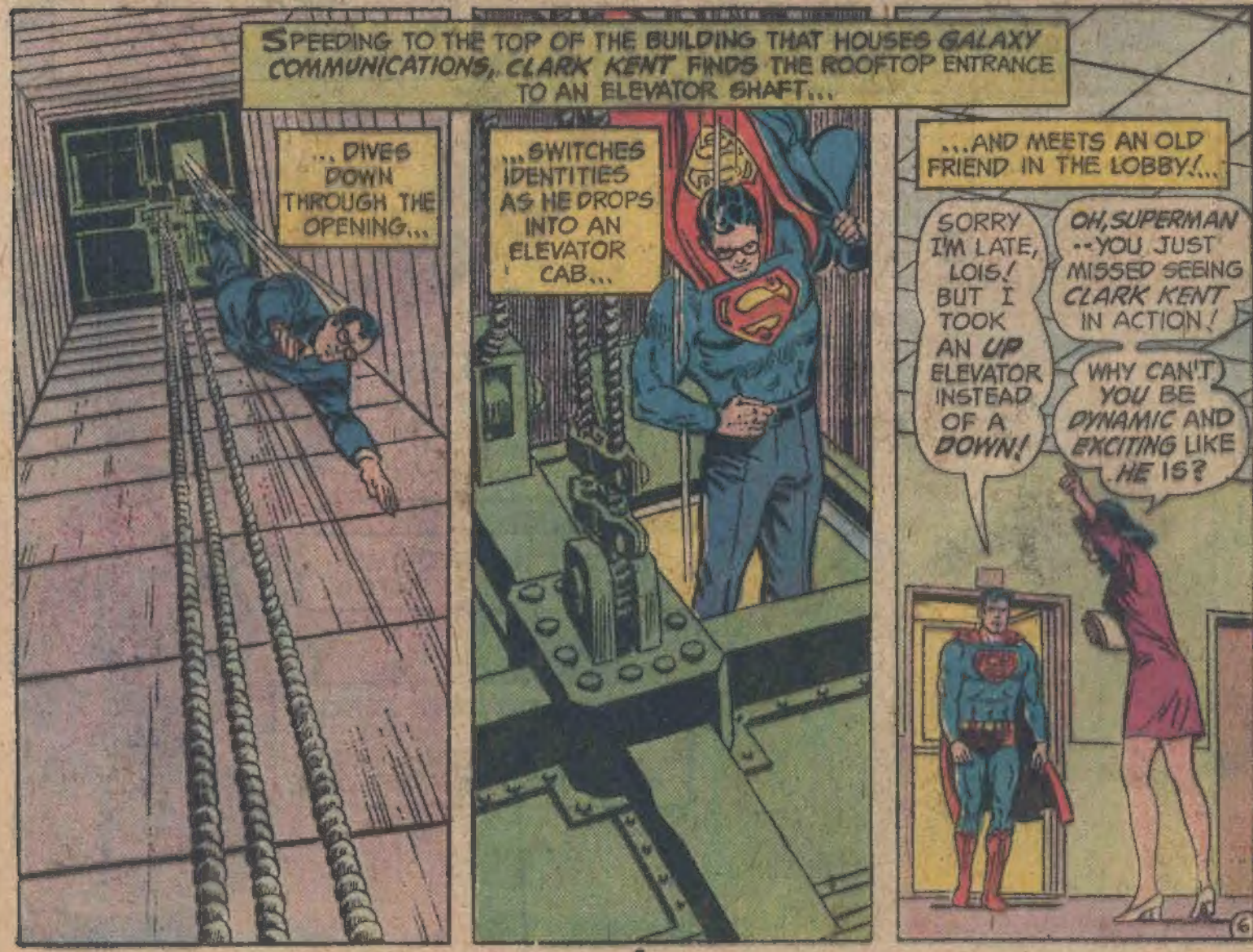
I'LL LEAVE THE POLICE TO GATHER TOGETHER THE STOLEN MONEY...

...AND I'LL SEE WHAT ELSE I CAN LEARN ABOUT THIS MYSTERY--



--OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT ZAZZALA IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED!

BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT LOIS!



SPEEDING TO THE TOP OF THE BUILDING THAT HOUSES GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS, CLARK KENT FINDS THE ROOFTOP ENTRANCE TO AN ELEVATOR SHAFT...

...DIVES DOWN THROUGH THE OPENING...

...SWITCHES IDENTITIES AS HE DROPS INTO AN ELEVATOR CAB...

...AND MEETS AN OLD FRIEND IN THE LOBBY!...

SORRY I'M LATE, LOIS! BUT I TOOK AN UP ELEVATOR INSTEAD OF A DOWN!

OH, SUPERMAN --YOU JUST MISSED SEEING CLARK KENT IN ACTION!

WHY CAN'T YOU BE DYNAMIC AND EXCITING LIKE HE IS?

STILL CONFUSED? SO IS
A CERTAIN BUNCH OF
OTHER PEOPLE...

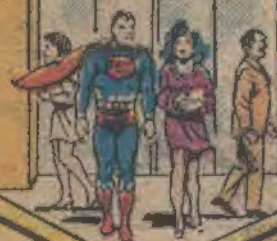
...IN A STRANGE
SPACE-SATELLITE
THOUSANDS OF
MILES ABOVE
THE EARTH...



...IN A STRUCTURE RESEMBLING NOTHING SO MUCH
AS A GARGANTUAN BEEHIVE!...

SUPERMAN IS WALKING DOWN
THE STREET IN THAT... THAT
COSTUME-- WHICH NO ONE
IS LOOKING AT TWICE!

AND THE FINEST
CRIMINAL MINDS
IN THE GALAXY--
CONVENED BY
ME IN THIS ANTI-
JUSTICE LEAGUE
SATELLITE--
DRAW A
BLANK!



THE FINEST CRIMINAL MINDS, INDEED...
FOR IN THIS SATELLITE SIT...

BRAINIAC, THE
SUPER-COMPUTER
AND SPACE-PIRATE
-- SUPERMAN'S
MOST POWERFUL
NEMESIS!

CLAYFACE,
OLD-TIME
NEMESIS OF
THE BATMAN,
WHO HAS THE
POWER TO
TAKE ON
BOTH THE
IMAGE AND
THE POWERS
OF ANYTHING
HE IMITATES!

THE HARPY, LEADER OF A BAND
OF WILD BIRD-WOMEN WHO HAVE
CONTENDED AGAINST BLACK CANARY!

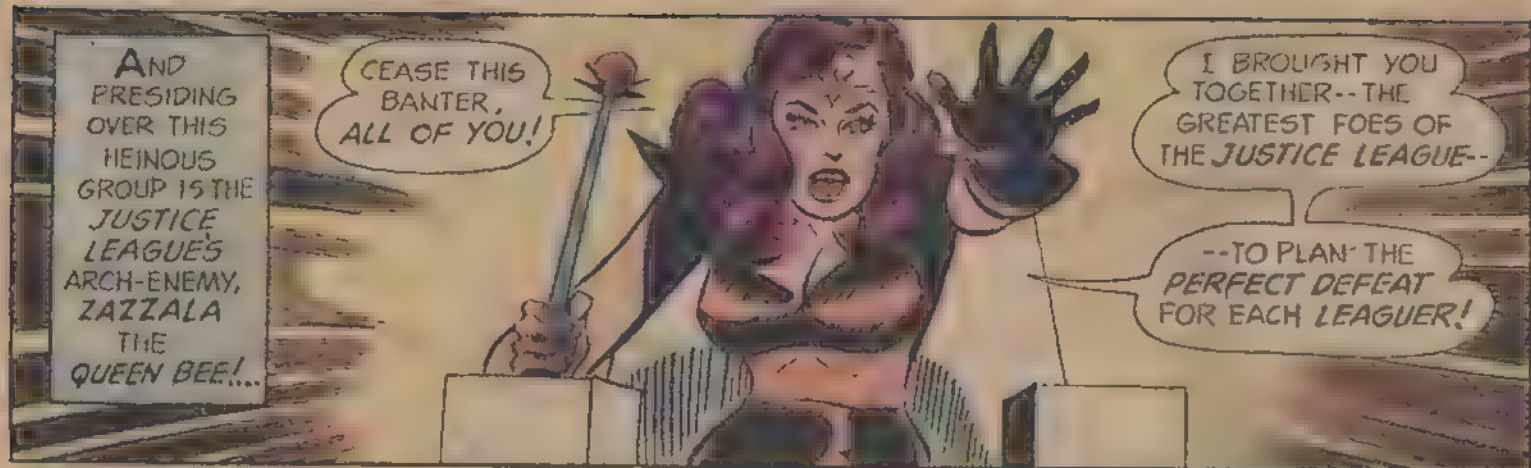
MERLYN, THE ARCHER--CRIMINAL
BOWMAN, THE ONLY PERSON
WHOSE TALENTS APPROACH
THOSE OF GREEN ARROW!

THE OCEAN MASTER,
HALF-BROTHER AND
SWORN ENEMY OF
AQUAMAN, KING OF
THE SEVEN SEAS!

SINESTRO, RENEGADE
GREEN LANTERN FROM
A FAR-OFF WORLD WHO
WIELDS A RING OF
YELLOW ENERGY!

CHRONOS, THE TIME-THIEF,
BITTER ENEMY OF THE ATOM!

GRODD, THE SUPER-GORILLA,
WHOSE HIGHLY ADVANCED
MIND HAS SEVERAL TIMES
NEARLY DESTROYED THE FLASH!



AND
PRESIDING
OVER THIS
HEINOUS
GROUP IS THE
**JUSTICE
LEAGUE'S**
ARCH-ENEMY,
ZAZZALA
THE
QUEEN BEE!...

CEASE THIS
BANTER,
ALL OF YOU!

I BROUGHT YOU
TOGETHER--THE
GREATEST FOES OF
THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE**--

--TO PLAN THE
PERFECT DEFEAT
FOR EACH LEAGUER!



"THE **HARPY**
AND **MERLYN**
COLLABORATED
TO DEFEAT
BLACK CANARY
AND
GREEN ARROW...

"...BY
DESIGNING
A SUBSTITUTE
FOR ONE OF
THE **ARROWS**
IN THE
ARCHER'S
QUIVER..."

I'LL SLOW
DOWN THOSE
SMUGGLERS
WITH THIS
NET ARROW,
PRETTY BIRD!



OLIVER--! THE **ARROW'S**
SHOOTING OUT SOME WEIRD,
GOOEY STUFF!

IT'S... A
BALLOON--
ABOUT TO
ENGULF US!



I DON'T HAVE
ANY **TRICK-ARROWS**
THAT DO THAT!



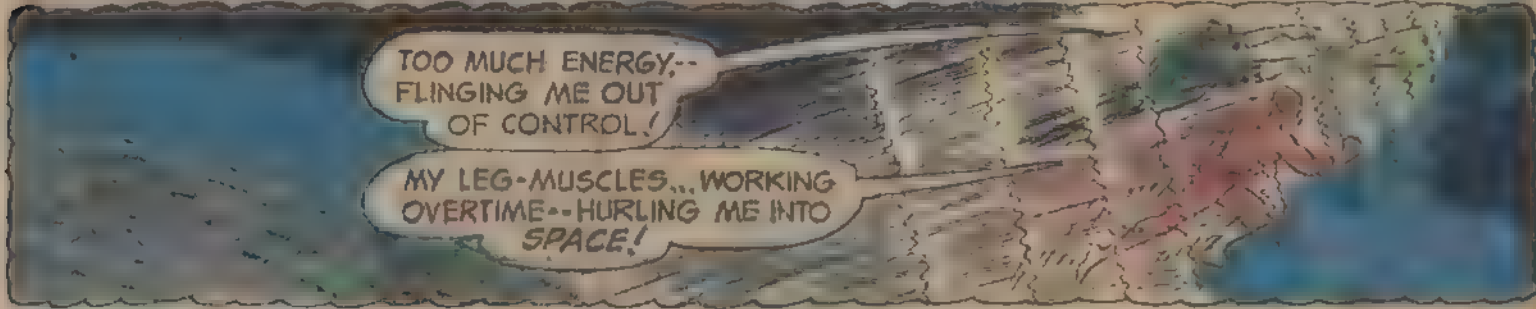
"GORILLA GRODD DESIGNED A MUSCLE-ACTIVATING SYSTEM

FULL SPEED AHEAD, FLASH-- GREAT GUARDIANS! WHAT'S WITH MY RING?

ME, TOO! MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MYSTERIOUS YELLOW RADIATION FROM MY RING!

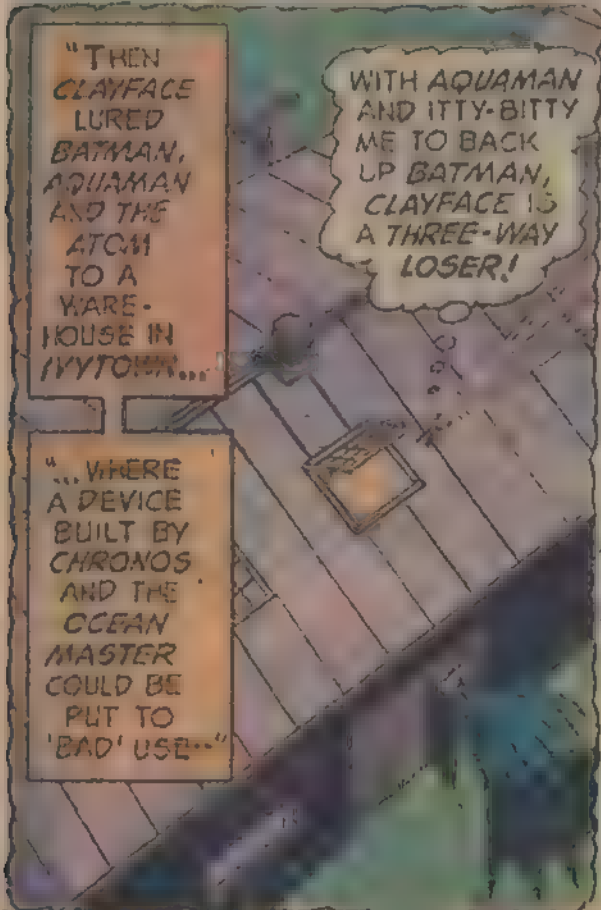
THAT SINESTRO ACTIVATED THROUGH GREEN LANTERN'S POWER RING..."

I'M RACING--FASTER THAN I SHOULD BE!



TOO MUCH ENERGY-- FLINGING ME OUT OF CONTROL!

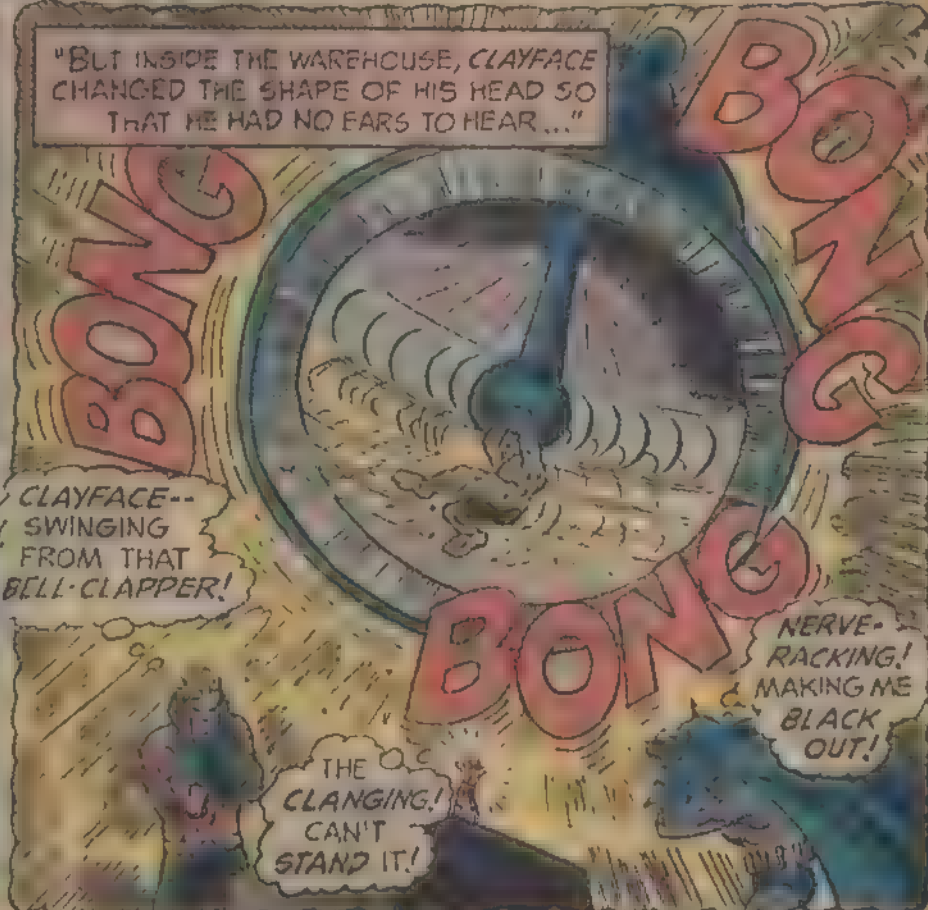
MY LEG-MUSCLES...WORKING OVERTIME--HURLING ME INTO SPACE!



"THEN CLAYFACE LURED BATMAN, AQUAMAN AND THE ATOM TO A WAREHOUSE IN IVYTOWN..."

WITH AQUAMAN AND ITTY-BITTY ME TO BACK UP BATMAN, CLAYFACE IS A THREE-WAY LOSER!

"...WHERE A DEVICE BUILT BY CHRONOS AND THE OCEAN MASTER COULD BE PUT TO 'BAD' USE..."



"BUT INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE, CLAYFACE CHANGED THE SHAPE OF HIS HEAD SO THAT HE HAD NO EARS TO HEAR..."

CLAYFACE-- SWINGING FROM THAT BELL-CLAPPER!

THE CLANGING! CAN'T STAND IT!

NERVE-RACKING! MAKING ME BLACK OUT!



"MY BEE-MEN AND I EASILY OVERWHELMED THE RED TORNADO AND ELONGATED MAN..."

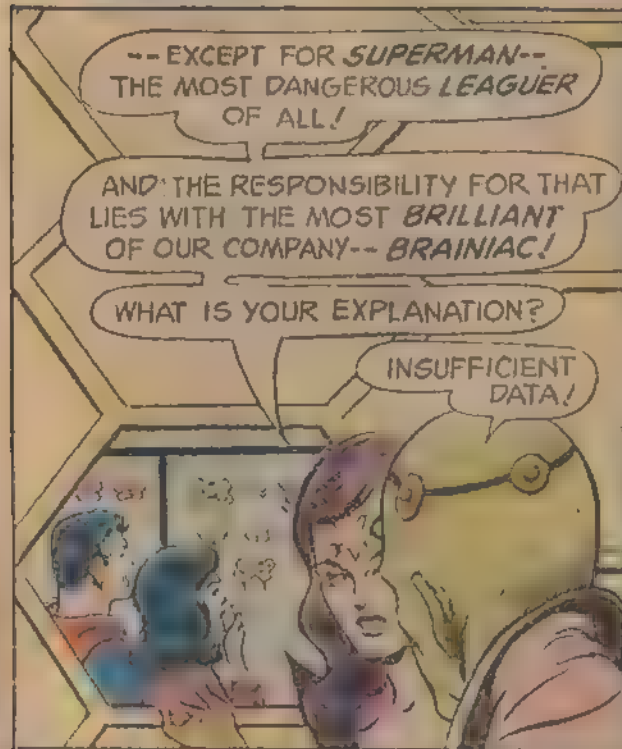
THESE CREATURES ARE FLYING AGAINST MY TORNADO-SPIN... SLOWING ME TO A STOP!

THAT POWER FROM HER WAND... TYING ME IN KNOTS!



DURING THEIR TEMPORARY DISABILITY, I BLASTED THE JLA MEMBERS' MINDS WITH MY SCEPTRE...

...RENDERED THEM INOPERATIVE--LIKE FLIES IN AMBER!

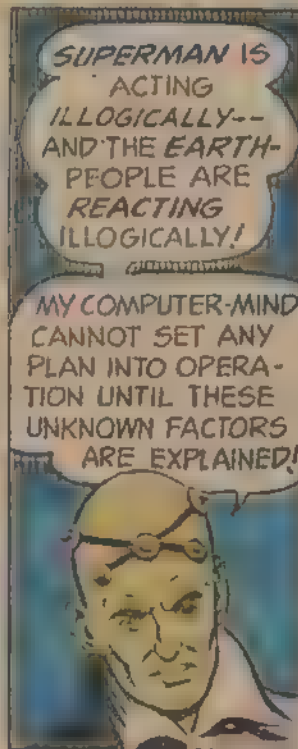


--EXCEPT FOR SUPERMAN-- THE MOST DANGEROUS LEAGUER OF ALL!

AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT LIES WITH THE MOST BRILLIANT OF OUR COMPANY--**BRAINIAC!**

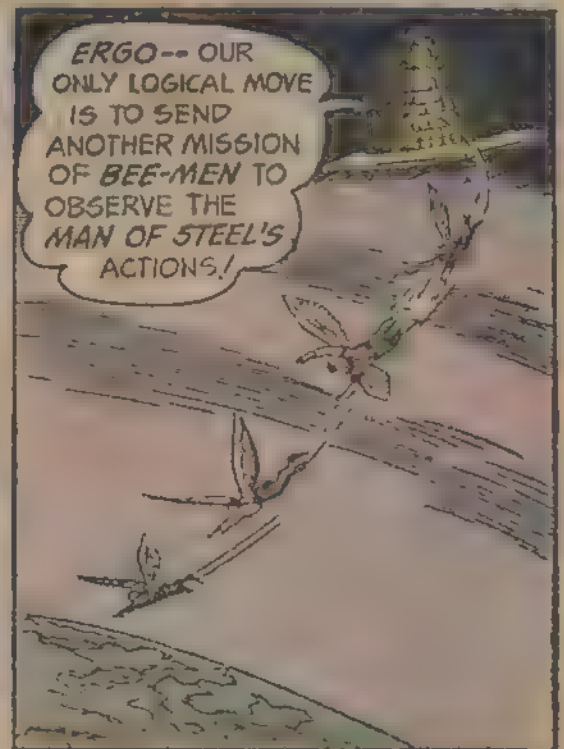
WHAT IS YOUR EXPLANATION?

INSUFFICIENT DATA!



SUPERMAN IS ACTING ILLOGICALLY-- AND THE EARTH-PEOPLE ARE REACTING ILLOGICALLY!

MY COMPUTER-MIND CANNOT SET ANY PLAN INTO OPERATION UNTIL THESE UNKNOWN FACTORS ARE EXPLAINED!



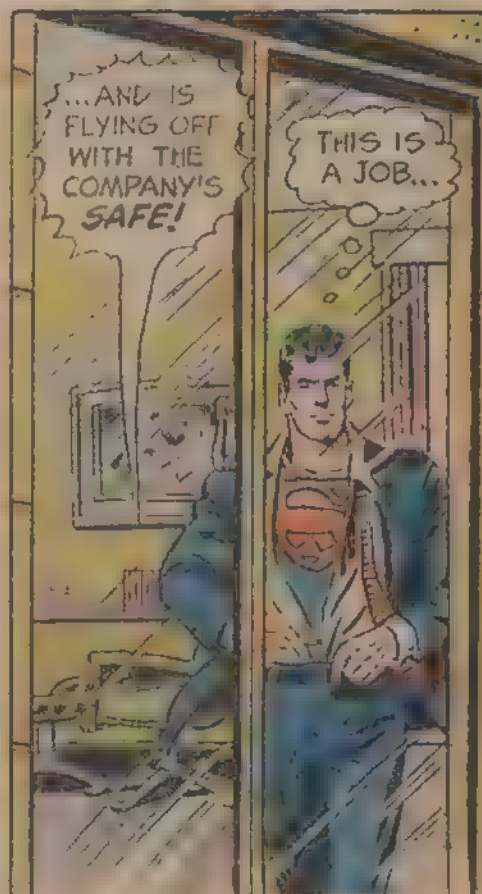
ERGO-- OUR ONLY LOGICAL MOVE IS TO SEND ANOTHER MISSION OF BEE-MEN TO OBSERVE THE MAN OF STEEL'S ACTIONS!



SOON, IN A MODEST APARTMENT AT 344 CLINTON STREET, IN METROPOLIS...

...THIS NEWS JUST IN! ANOTHER BAND OF BEE-MEN HAS JUST RAIDED THE MILK-&-HONEY CANDY PLANT...

?!



...AND IS FLYING OFF WITH THE COMPANY'S SAFE!

THIS IS A JOB...



...FOR CLARK KENT--!

MUSTN'T FORGET TO PUT ON MY GLASSES! CAN'T RISK ANYONE RECOGNIZING ME AS SUPERMAN!

SPOTTING A PAIR OF BEE-MEN, THE FLYING MAN IN THE BUSINESS SUIT DROPS IN ALTITUDE AND...

BUZZ OFF, DRONES!

MILK AND

THE BEE-MEN ARE HANGING THERE UNCONSCIOUS -- NOT DEMATERIALIZING...

...WHICH MEANS THEY HAVEN'T YET FAILED IN THEIR MISSION! THEREFORE, THERE MUST BE MORE OF THEM--

AND A SPLIT-SECOND AFTER HE MAKES SURE THAT THE SAFE LANDS SOFTLY-- WITHIN SIGHT OF POLICE..

MY NEXT MOVE-- SUPER-SPEED TO THE ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!

GOT TO CLICK THIS SWITCH ON MY WATCH THE PRECISE INSTANT QUEEN-BEE SENDS A MENTAL ORDER FOR THEM TO VANISH!

SHE REALLY ISN'T KILLING THEM... SINCE ALL THE BEES ARE PART OF ONE MASTER CONSCIOUSNESS --HER OWN!

--BEHIND ME!

HEY CONDY C

POLICE

BUT ALL THIS HAS BEEN OBSERVED FROM THE BEEHIVE-SATELLITE...

I HAVE REACHED A CONCLUSION, QUEEN ZATALLA!

SINCE SUPERMAN-KENT SHOWS SUFFICIENT REASONING ABILITY TO DEFEAT A WELL-PLANNED ATTACK OF YOUR DRONES...

...HE IS NOT DEMENTED AT ALL!

AND WHILE THIS IS BEING EXPLAINED, IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...

MY RADAR-MONITOR HAS TRACKED THE QUEEN BEE'S MENTAL IMPULSE TO A POINT IN SPACE!

SUPERMAN-KENT IS ACTING OUT THIS CHARADE FOR OUR BENEFIT!

THAT MEANS HE SOMEHOW KNOWS WE'RE AFTER HIM!

BRAINIAC--YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ORDERS YOU TO PROCEED AGAINST SUPERMAN!

I'VE ACTIVATED THE JLA-TELEPORTER TO LOCK ONTO THAT POINT IN SPACE--

--SO I WON'T NEED MY CIVVIES ANY MORE!

THE ULTRA-CARBOLIUM BEAM I DESIGNED IS DISPATCHED TOWARD THE FORTRESS AS PER YOUR ORDER, YOUR HIGHNESS!

BUT A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE BRAINIAC'S BEAM HITS SUPERMAN...

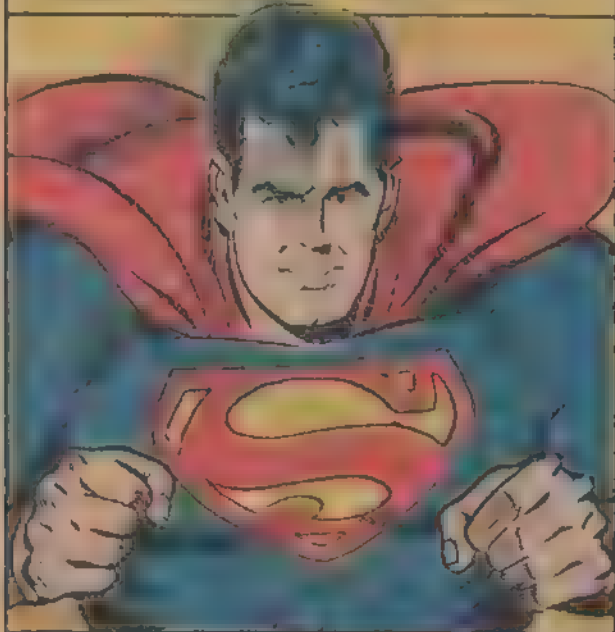
WHATEVER'S OUT THERE-- HERE I COME!

AND ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY...

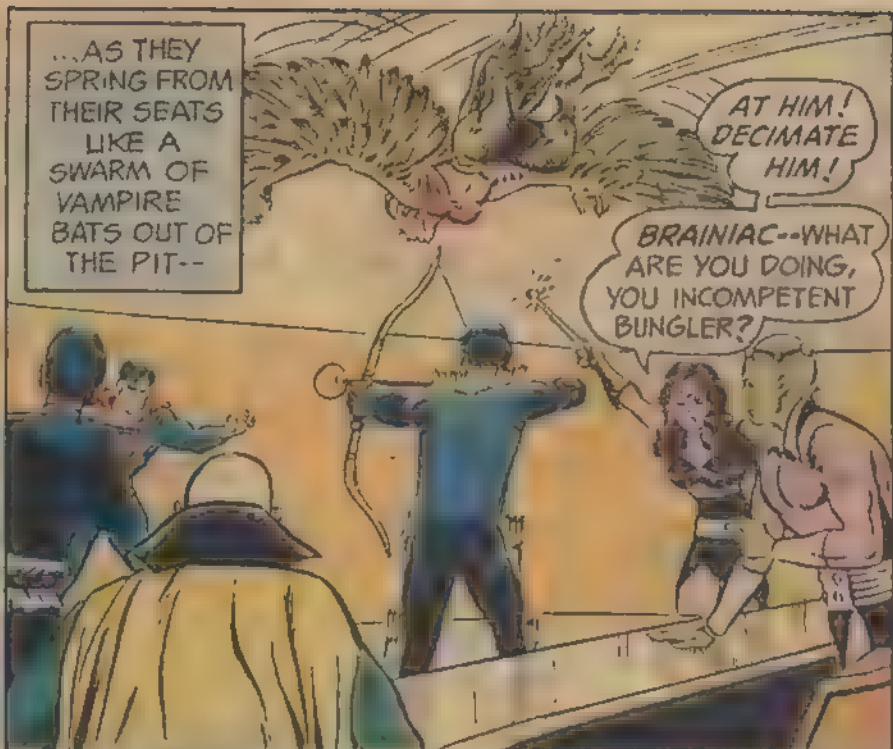
THE PROJECT IS IN OPERATION! THE MAN OF STEEL IS AS DOOMED AS--

S-S-SUPERMAN-- IN OUR SECRET SANCTUARY?!

BEFORE SUCH A STARTLING COLLECTION OF THE SCOURGES OF SOCIETY, SUPERMAN BARELY HAS TIME TO BRACE HIMSELF...



...AS THEY SPRING FROM THEIR SEATS LIKE A SWARM OF VAMPIRE BATS OUT OF THE PIT--



AT HIM!
DECIMATE HIM!

BRAINIAC--WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU INCOMPETENT BUNGLER?

BUT THERE IS NO ANSWER FROM THE MOST EVIL, COMPLICATED COMPUTER IN THE GALAXY...



...AS THE FIRST WAVE OF VILLAINS ATTACKS THE MAN FROM KRYPTON...

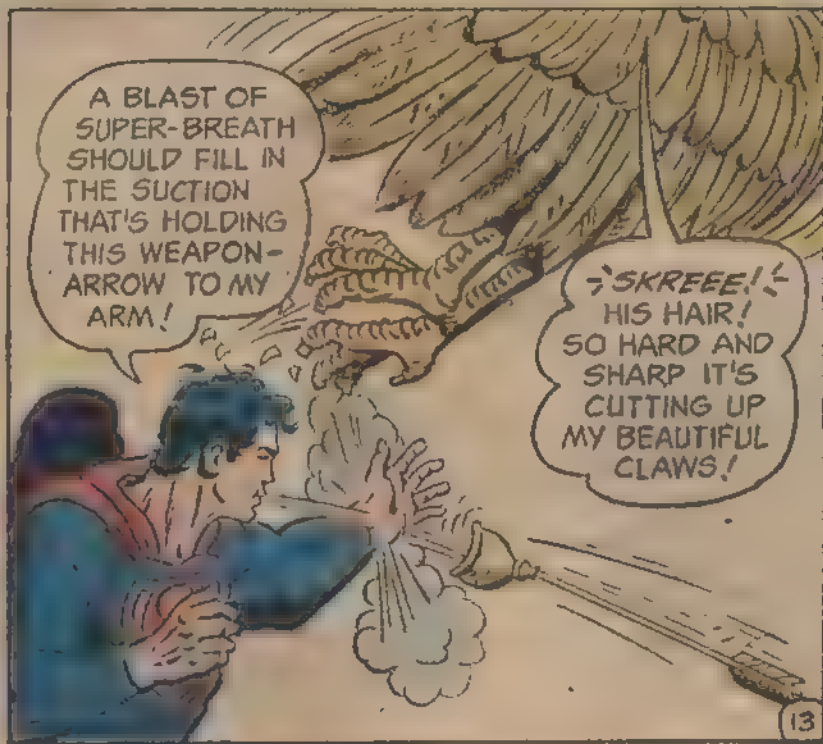
YOU--WITH THE RING!
YOU'RE SINESTRO, RIGHT?

YOU'VE HEARD OF A HOT-FOOT?
HOW ABOUT A HOT-HAND?

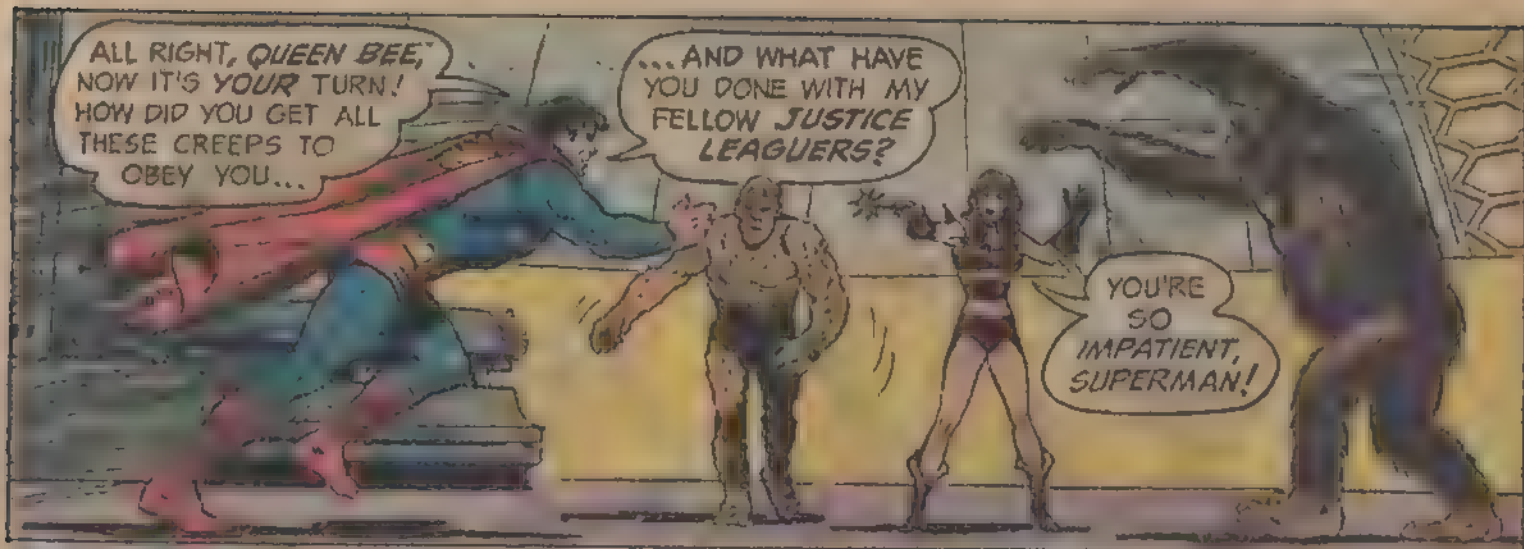


YEOWCH!!!
MOLTEN RING ALL OVER MY HAND!

A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH SHOULD FILL IN THE SUCTION THAT'S HOLDING THIS WEAPON-ARROW TO MY ARM!



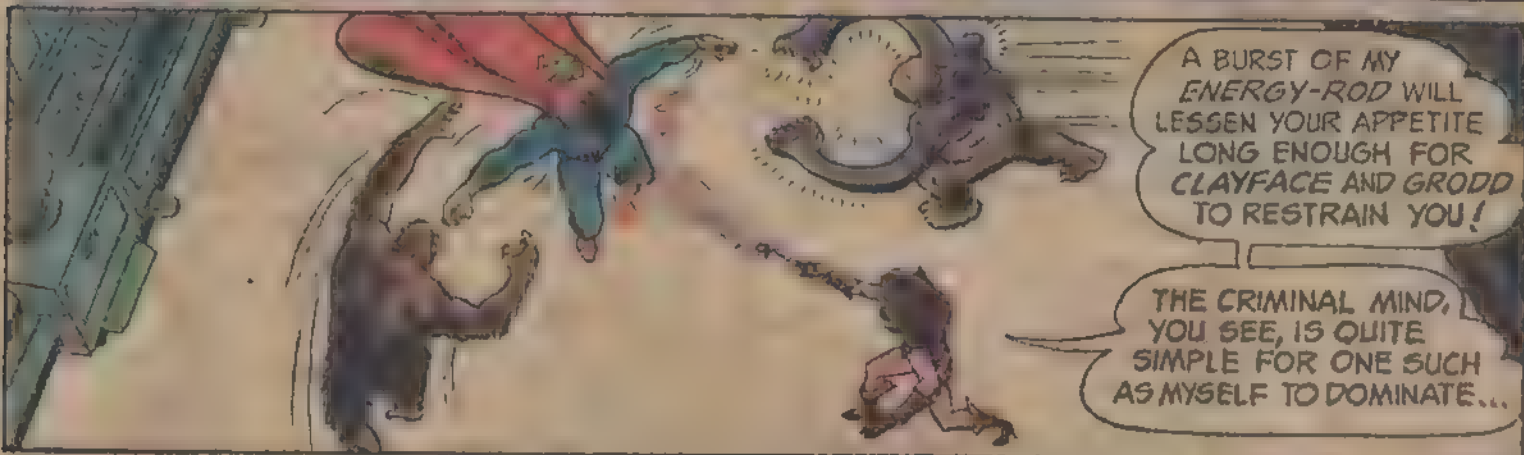
SKREEE!!
HIS HAIR!
SO HARD AND SHARP IT'S CUTTING UP MY BEAUTIFUL CLAWS!



ALL RIGHT, **QUEEN BEE**,
NOW IT'S **YOUR** TURN!
HOW DID YOU GET ALL
THESE CREEPS TO
OBEY YOU...

...AND WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE WITH MY
FELLOW **JUSTICE**
LEAGUERS?

YOU'RE
SO
IMPATIENT,
SUPERMAN!



A BURST OF MY
ENERGY-ROD WILL
LESSEN YOUR APPETITE
LONG ENOUGH FOR
CLAYFACE AND **GRODD**
TO RESTRAIN YOU!

THE CRIMINAL MIND,
YOU SEE, IS QUITE
SIMPLE FOR ONE SUCH
AS MYSELF TO DOMINATE...



...BUT I HAVE
FOUND PEOPLE
LIKE YOURSELF
AND YOUR **JLA**
COLLEAGUES MOST
TROUBLESOME!

THERE THEY ARE! I SEE THEM
BEHIND THAT WALL WITH MY
X-RAY VISION--FROZEN LIKE SOME
HELLISH MENAGERIE!



THERE ISN'T A POWER
IN THE **UNIVERSE** THAT
CAN KEEP ME FROM THEM!

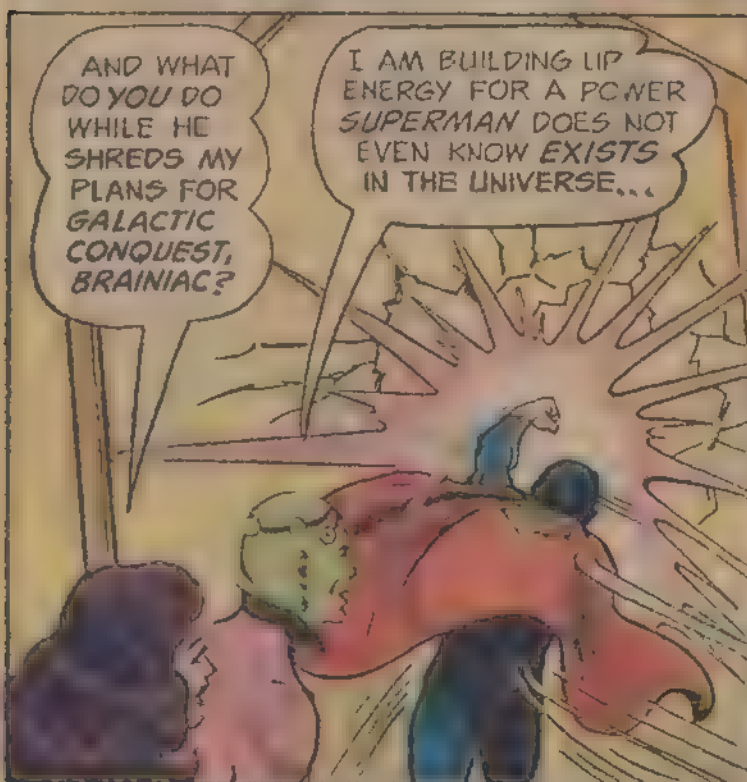
THINK AGAIN,
SUPERMAN!
YOU'VE FELT
SUPER-GORILLA
POWER BEFORE!*

* **SUPERMAN**
TANGLED WITH
GRODD IN ACTION
COMICS #423--
Editor



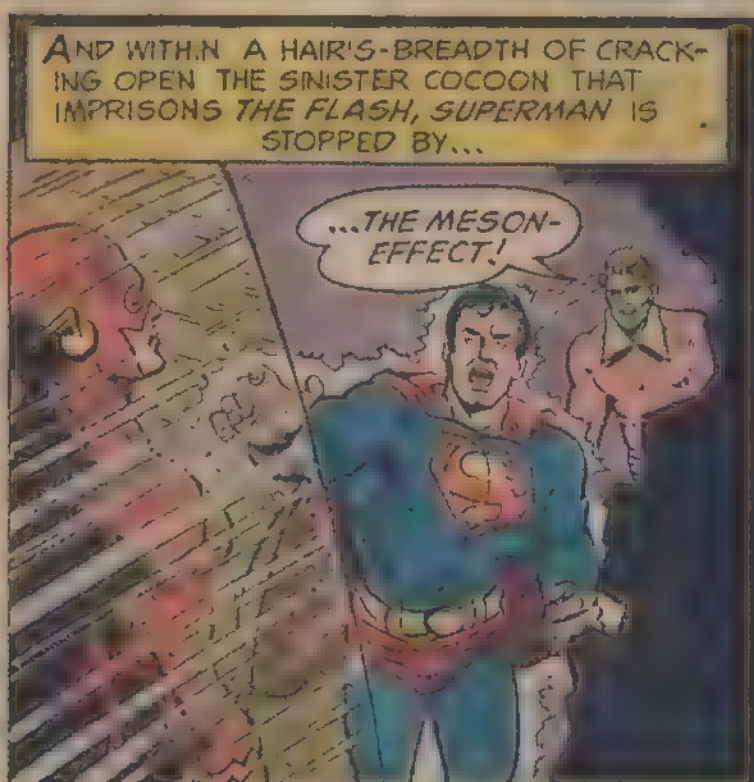
I REPEAT-- NO
POWER IN THE
UNIVERSE!
NONE!

H-HE BREEZED
THROUGH THE TWO MOST
POWERFUL CRIMINALS I
COULD FIND, AS IF THEY WERE
PAPER!



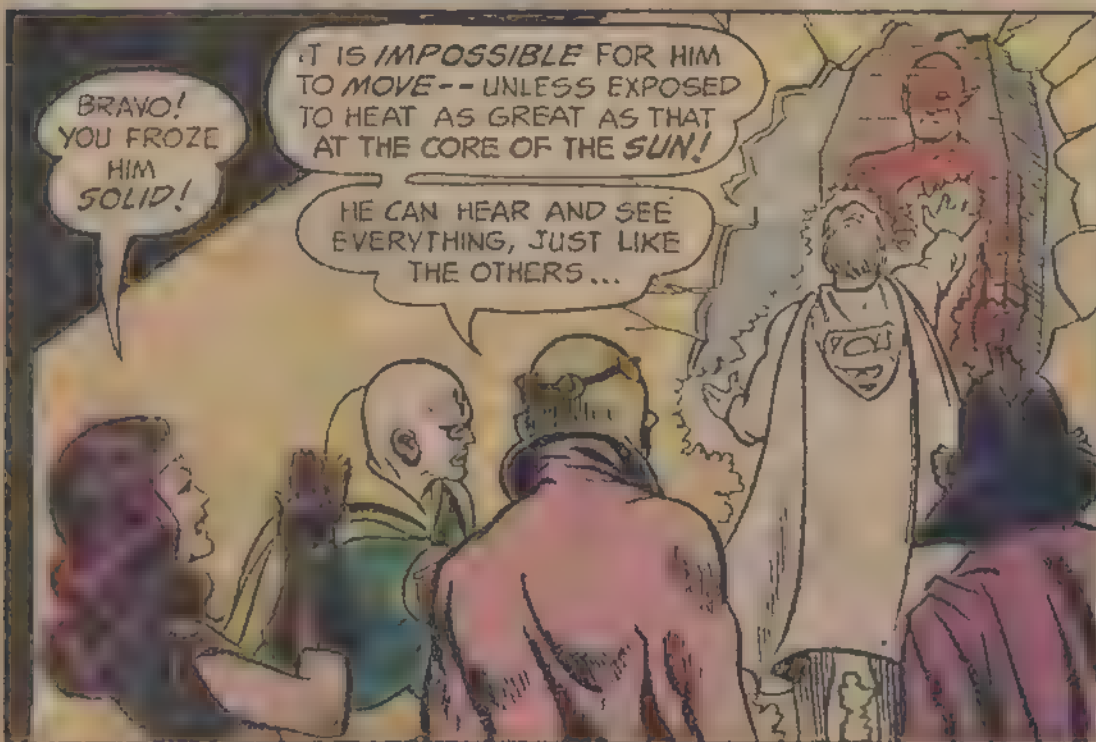
AND WHAT
DO YOU DO
WHILE HE
SHREDS MY
PLANS FOR
GALACTIC
CONQUEST,
BRAINIAC?

I AM BUILDING UP
ENERGY FOR A POWER
SUPERMAN DOES NOT
EVEN KNOW EXISTS
IN THE UNIVERSE...



AND WITHIN A HAIR'S-BREADTH OF CRACK-
ING OPEN THE SINISTER COCOON THAT
IMPRISONS THE FLASH, SUPERMAN IS
STOPPED BY...

...THE MESON-
EFFECT!



BRAVO!
YOU FROZE
HIM
SOLID!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM
TO MOVE-- UNLESS EXPOSED
TO HEAT AS GREAT AS THAT
AT THE CORE OF THE SUN!

HE CAN HEAR AND SEE
EVERYTHING, JUST LIKE
THE OTHERS...



...BUT HE IS UTTERLY
POWERLESS--AND
HELPLESS!

HA, HA! MAYBE WE
SHOULD TAKE HIM
BACK TO EARTH AND
SELL HIM AS A
PAPERWEIGHT!

NOW THAT WE HAVE CONQUERED OUR GREATEST ENEMIES...

...WE CAN PUT INTO OPERATION MY PLAN TO RULE AS QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE!

WHAT GOES THROUGH THE MIND OF A **SUPERMAN** WHEN HE REALIZES HE MAY HAVE **FAILED** AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL?...

PERHAPS HE THINKS OF HOW HE FIRST REALIZED THERE WERE SUCH FORCES AT WORK...

...HOW A QUICK-THINKING **BATMAN**--ABOUT TO BE TELEPORTED TO THIS **SPACE-BEEHIVE**--SOUNDED THE **JLA EMERGENCY SIGNAL**...

BONG

...HOW **SUPERMAN**, HEARING THE SIGNAL, WATCHED WITH HIS TELESCOPIC VISION **BATMAN**, **AQUAMAN**, AND THE **ATOM** VANISH FROM THE **EARTH**...

...AND BECAME AWARE HE WAS THE ONLY FULL-TIME **JUSTICE LEAGUE** MEMBER LEFT ON THE PLANET...

CAN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM! BUT THEY'RE GONE!

QUICK DETECTIVE WORK REVEALED THAT EACH MEMBER'S MOST POWERFUL FOE WAS NO LONGER IN CAPTIVITY...

YES, **KAL-EL**! OUR SENSORS SHOW THAT **SINESTRO** IS MISSING!

CORRECT, **SUPERMAN**--**GRODD** HAS ESCAPED FROM **GORILLA CITY**!

IF ONLY **WONDER WOMAN** WERE BACK IN THE **JLA**... OR **HAWKMAN**! BUT AS IT IS, I'M ON MY OWN!

THE QUESTION IS, WHICH OF MY FOES WILL STRIKE AT ME?

AS YOU SEE, **SUPERMAN**, BOTH **LUTHOR** AND **TERRAMAN** ARE STILL IMPRISONED UNDER CONSTANT GUARD!

THANKS, WARDEN MARWELL!

NO PHANTOM ZONE VILLAINS MISSING EITHER! THAT MEANS IT'S **BRAINIAC** WHO'S ON THE LOOSE! AND HE KNOWS I'M **CLARK KENT**!

THE LAST HOPE OF THE **JLA** REALIZED THAT THE BEST WAY TO BUY TIME WITH **BRAINIAC**...

...WAS TO ACT ILLOGICALLY--CONFUSE THE SUPER-COMPUTER!

THIS **KANDORIAN BRAIN-WAVE MACHINE** WILL REVERSE THE ATTITUDE OF EVERYONE ON EARTH TOWARD **CLARK** AND **SUPERMAN**!

ON EARTH, PEOPLE WILL THINK IT PERFECTLY NATURAL AND NORMAL FOR **CLARK** TO FLY--AND ANYONE IN SPACE OBSERVING IT WILL BE CONFUSED!

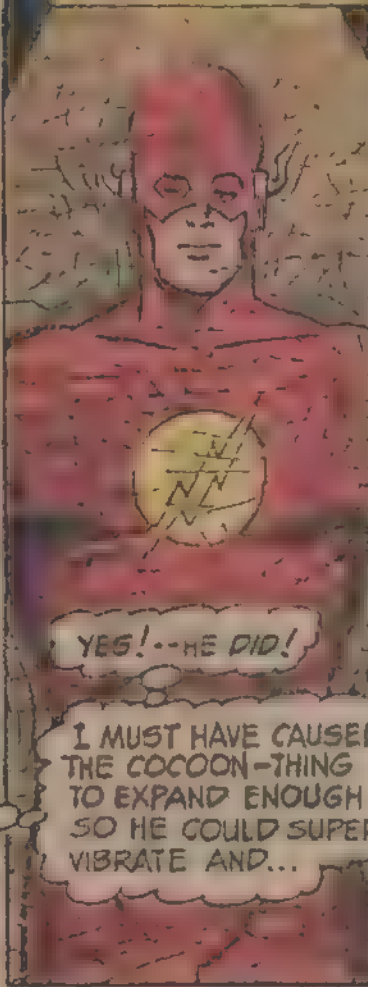
SUPERMAN ALSO REMEMBERS THE DISASTROUS EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED, UP TO THE MOMENT BRAINIAC FROZE HIM SOLID...

...IN THE BLIND HOPE THAT MAYBE THE HEAT WOULD WARP THE SOLID PRISON JUST ENOUGH...



GREAT KRYPTON!
AM I DREAMING, OR
DID I SEE THE
FLASH MOVE??

...THAT MOMENT WHEN, IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT, SUPERMAN HURLED A QUICK BURST OF HEAT VISION IN THE FLASH'S DIRECTION...



YES!--HE DID!

I MUST HAVE CAUSED
THE COCOON-THING
TO EXPAND ENOUGH
SO HE COULD SUPER-
VIBRATE AND...



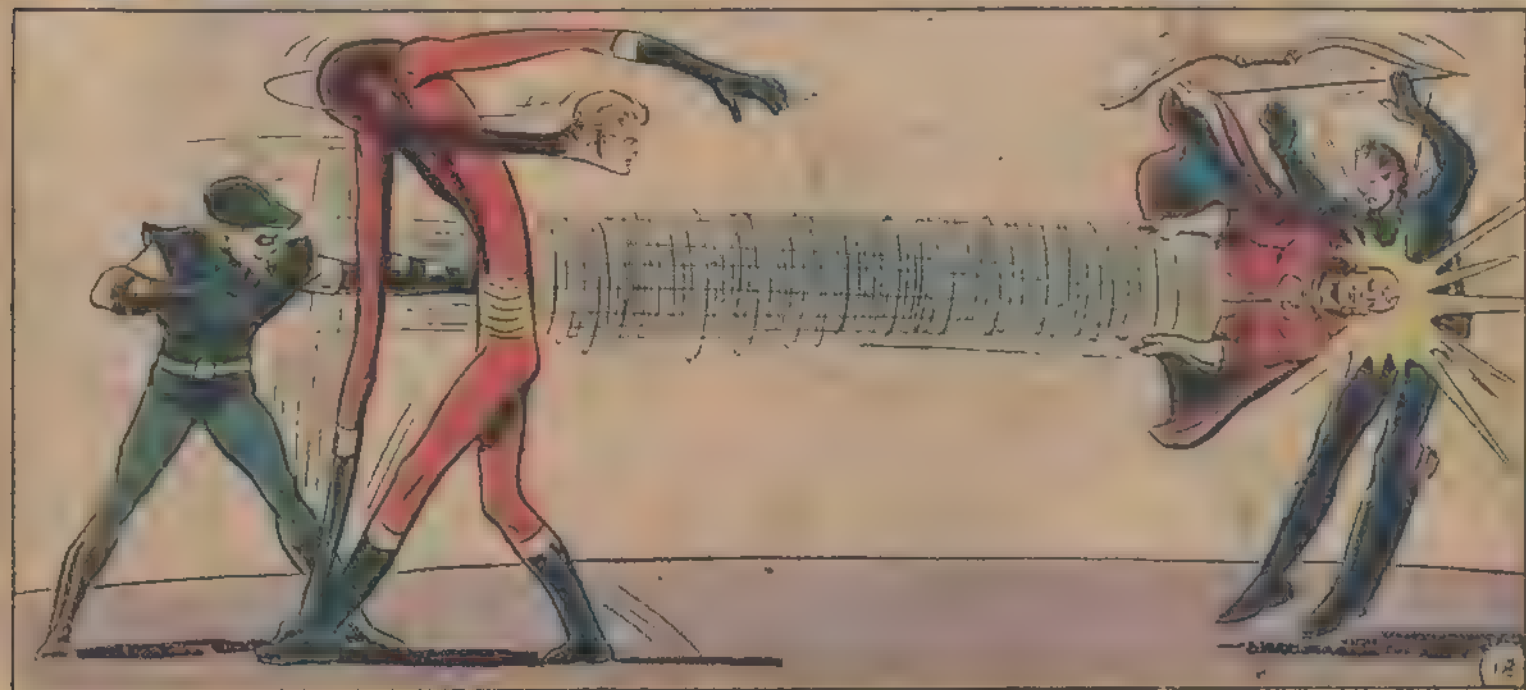
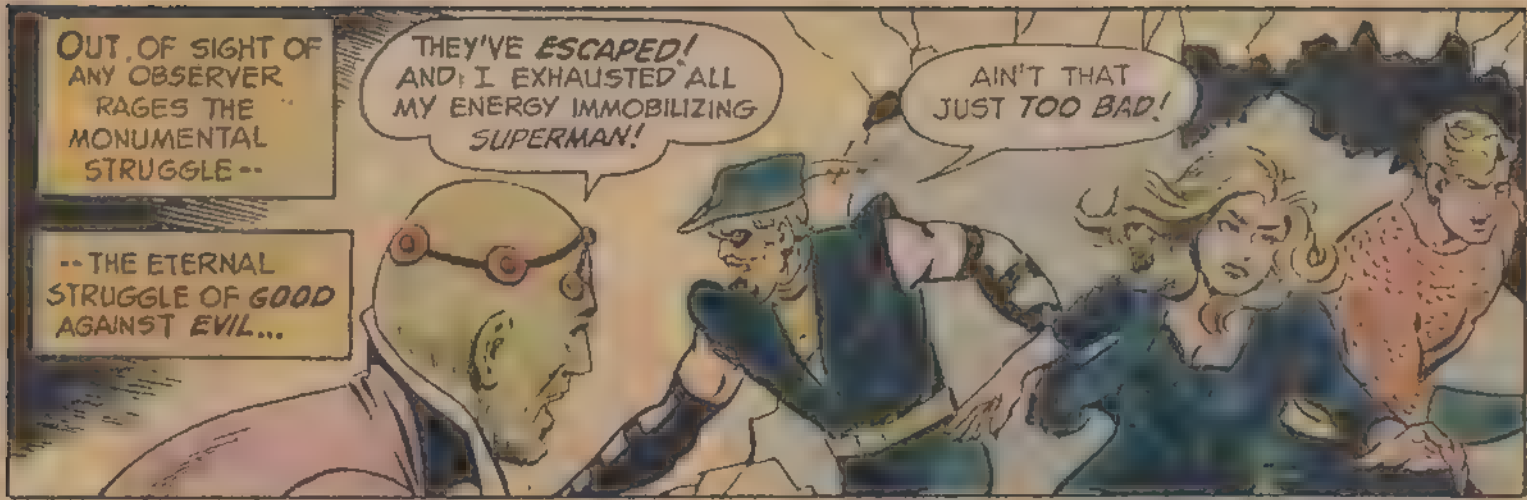
...BREAK
FREE!

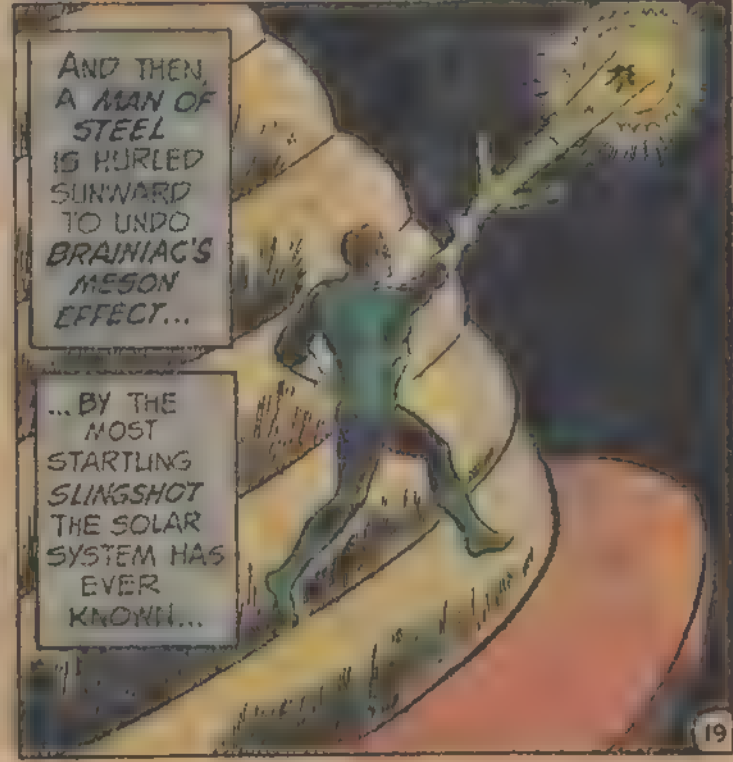
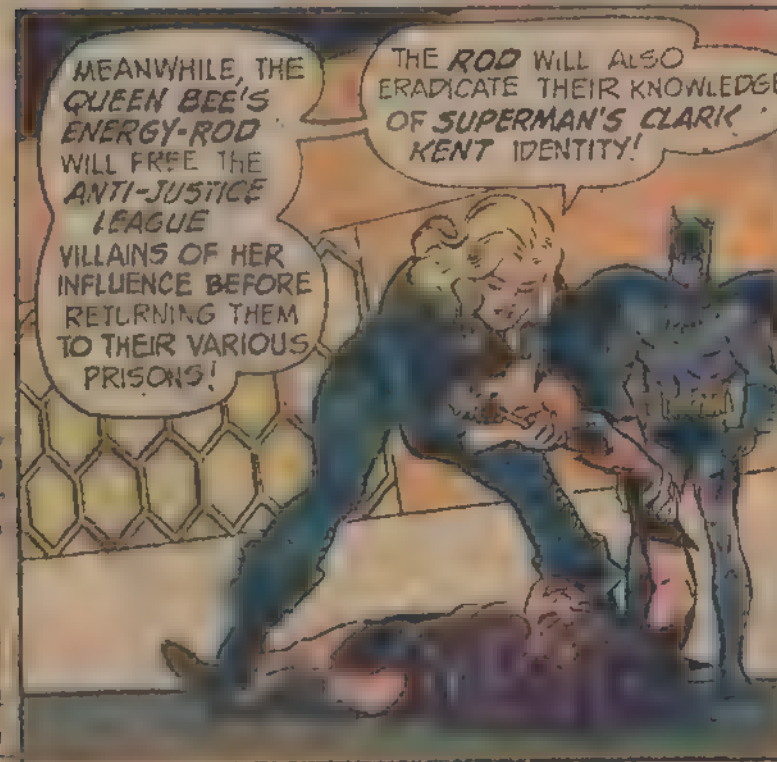
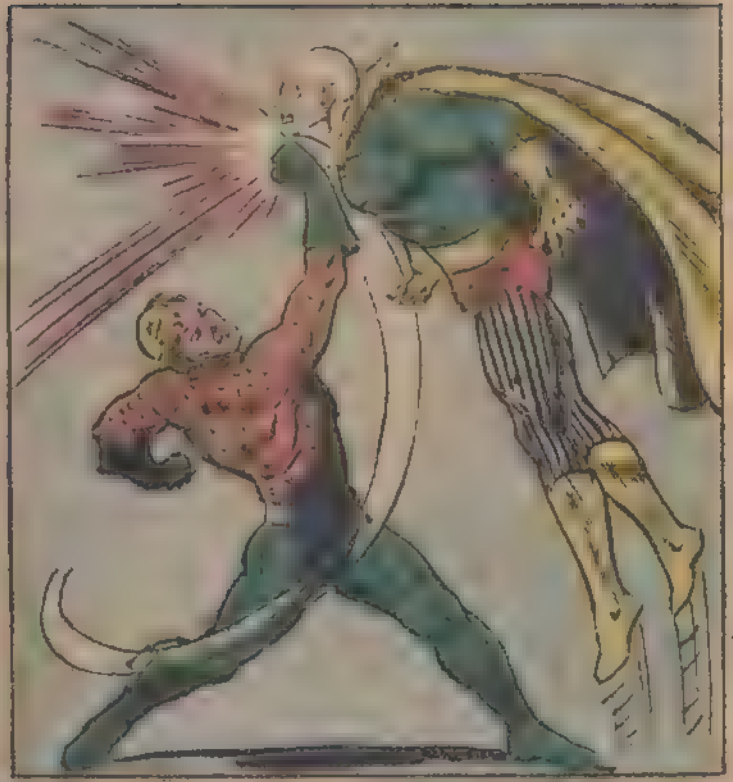
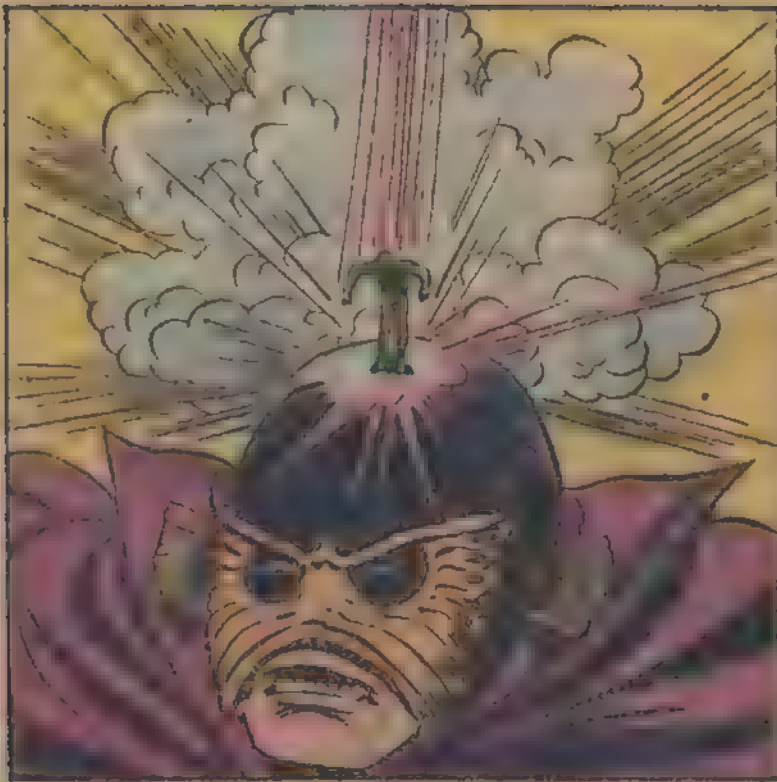
AND WITHOUT A WORD--
BEFORE THE CONQUEST-
FEVERED QUEEN BEE CAN
VOICE AN ORDER EVEN A
SYLLABLE LONG...

... HER HEADQUARTERS IS
INFESTED WITH THE MOST
FORMIDABLE GROUP OF
ENEMIES IMAGINABLE...

... THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE OF
AMERICA!







APPENDIX

SOON AFTER, WHEN THE DEVICE IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE HAS REVERSED PEOPLE'S THINKING, AND SUPERMAN-CLARK KENT ARE BACK TO NORMAL...

...THE JLA MEMBERS, IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, TAKE A TOUR OF THE FABULOUS GALAXY BUILDING...

...AND THIS FLOOR IS THE WGBS NEWS DEPARTMENT...

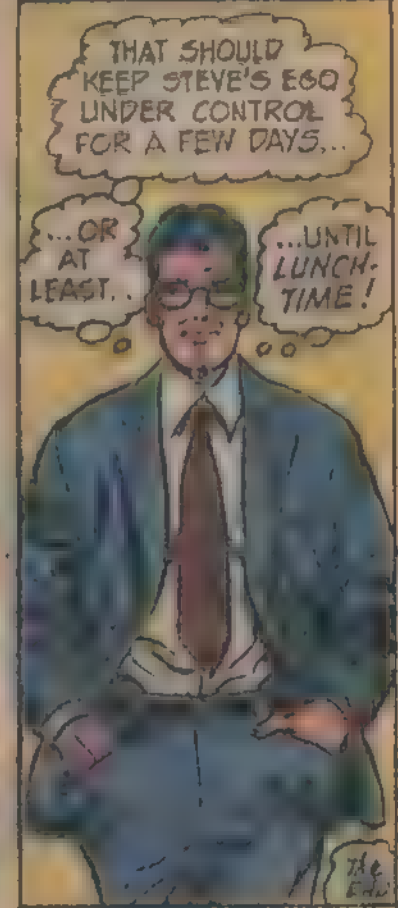
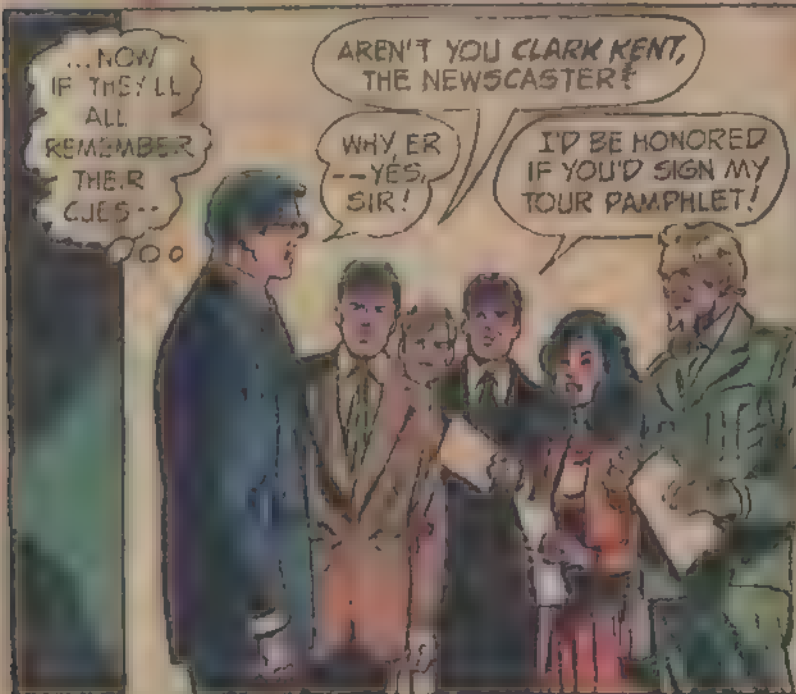
...CENTER OF A WORLDWIDE INFORMATION-GATHERING NETWORK!

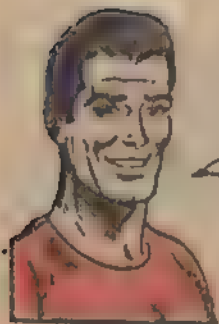
WONDER IF WE'LL RUN INTO JOHN CHANCELLOR?

HE'S WITH NBC, YOU TURKEY!

HERE COME THE JUSTICE LEAGUERS!

STEVE IS RIGHT BEHIND ME...





I'M DANE DORRANCE OF THE SEA DEVILS! BIFF, JUDY, NICKY AND I HAVE ENCOUNTERED MANY UNDERSEA MENACES... LIKE THE UNDERSEA SIREN IN THIS ISSUE! HERE ARE A FEW OTHERS...

7 THREATS

RIGHT, DANE! REMEMBER MR. NEPTUNE, THE VILLAIN WHO SHRUNK US TO SARDINE SIZE... AND IMPRISONED US IN A BOTTLE?



AS SHOWN IN "A BOTTLEFUL OF SEA DEVILS"
-SEA DEVILS #2; NOV.-DEC., 1961

I'M STILL NOT SURE WE DIDN'T DREAM THE ONE ABOUT THE FIRE-BREATHING SEA BEAST... BUT COULD WE ALL DREAM THE SAME THING?



"THE FLAME-HEADED WATCHMAN"
-SEA DEVILS #6; JULY-AUG., 1962

WHAT ABOUT THAT UNDERSEA NERO WHO SNARED US... AND MADE US FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES... AND JUDY'S?



HE HAD HER IN A GLASS PRISON THAT WOULD FILL WITH WATER IN ONE HOUR! WE HAD TO WIN OUR ARENA BATTLES IN THAT TIME, OR SHE'D DROWN!



"UNDERWATER CRIME WAVE"-SEA DEVILS #3;
JAN.-FEB., 1962

IN THE 7 SEAS!

WATCH FOR THESE
AND OTHER SEA DEVILS
TALES IN FUTURE
ISSUES OF
ACTION COMICS!



THE WATER ALIEN FROM ANOTHER
PLANET GAVE US A ROUGH TIME...



"THE HUMAN TIDAL WAVE"
-SEA DEVILS #7; SEPT.-OCT., 1962

AND THE HUGE SEA-BORCERER
WHO TRANSFORMED US INTO
HUMAN FISH!



"CURSE OF NEPTUNE'S GIANT"
-SEA DEVILS #8; NOV.-DEC., 1962

ANOTHER ALIEN WAS THE CORAL
GIANT WHO TRIED TO ENSLAVE US!

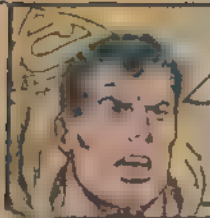


"THE SECRET OF THE CORAL CREATURE"
-SEA DEVILS #9; JAN.-FEB., 1963

THEN THERE WAS THE MAGNETIC MONSTER
WHICH CAUGHT US BY OUR METAL SCUBA
TANKS!



"THREAT OF THE MAGNETIC MENACE"
-SEA DEVILS #12; JULY-AUG., 1963



NOW THAT YOU'VE
SEEN MY NEWEST
ADVENTURE, I'LL TURN
THINGS OVER TO THE
SEA DEVILS, FOR...

ACTION UNDERWATER!



THE SEA DEVILS HAVE OFTEN BATTLED THE SEA'S TERRORS AND MYSTERIES! BUT NOW THEY
FACE THE MOST BAFFLING THREAT OF THEIR CAREERS! FOR ALL, SAVE ONE OF THE DARING
UNDERWATER TEAM, BECOME BEWITCHED--EVEN TURNING AGAINST EACH OTHER--WHEN THEY
BECOME THE PREY OF...

THE GHOST OF THE DEEP!

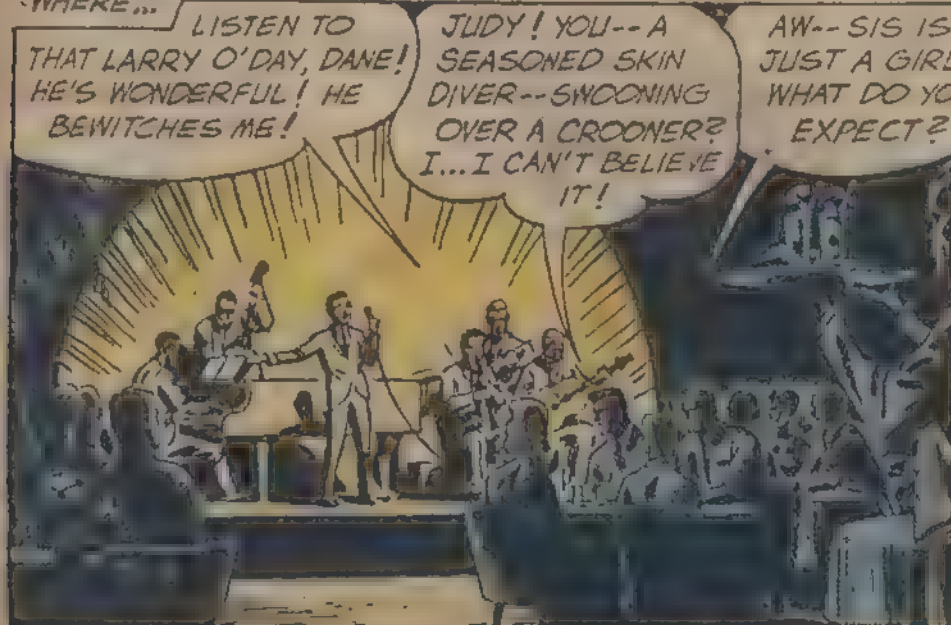


STORY:
ROBERT KANIGHER

ART:
RUSS HEATH

SEA DEVILS

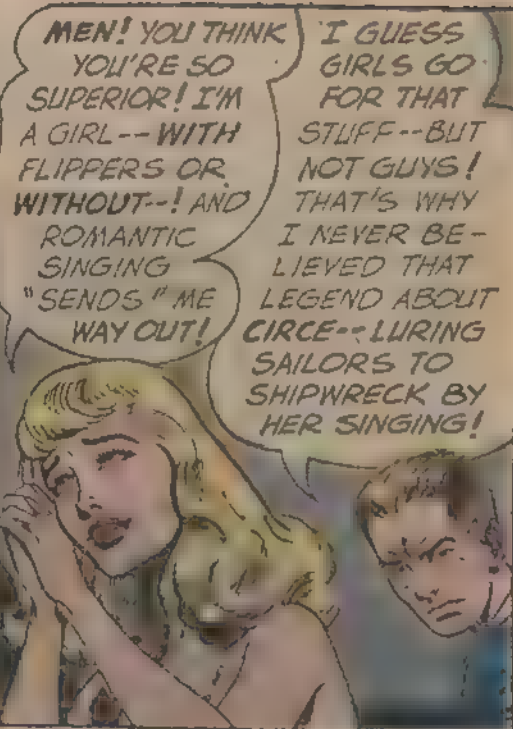
THE SEA DEVILS VISIT A SEASIDE NIGHT SPOT--THE CIRCE CLUB... WHERE...



LISTEN TO THAT LARRY O'DAY, DANE! HE'S WONDERFUL! HE BEWITCHES ME!

JUDY! YOU-- A SEASONED SKIN DIVER--SMOONING OVER A CROONER? I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

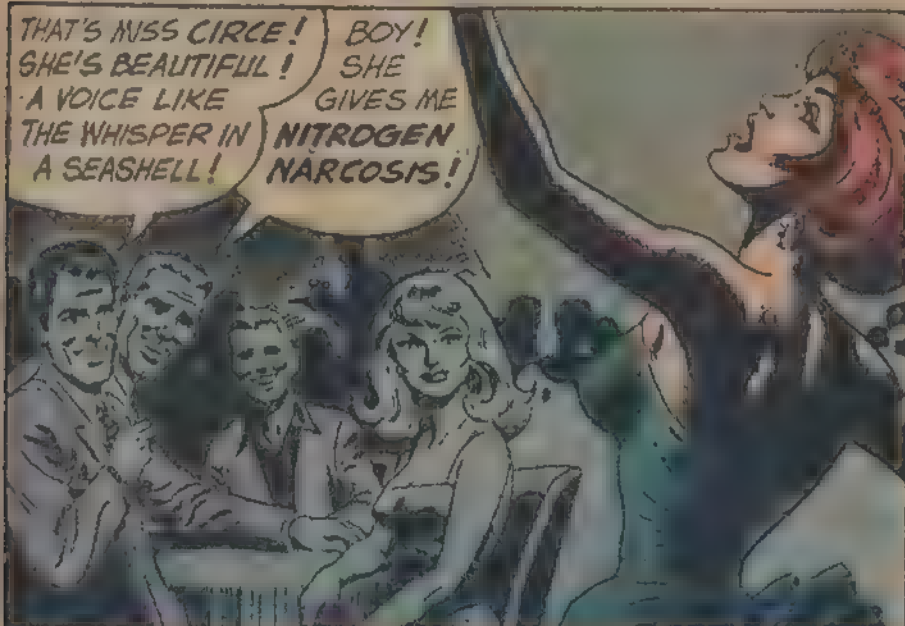
AW-- SIS IS JUST A GIRL! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?



MEN! YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SUPERIOR! I'M A GIRL-- WITH FLIPPERS OR WITHOUT--! AND ROMANTIC SINGING "SENDS" ME WAY OUT!

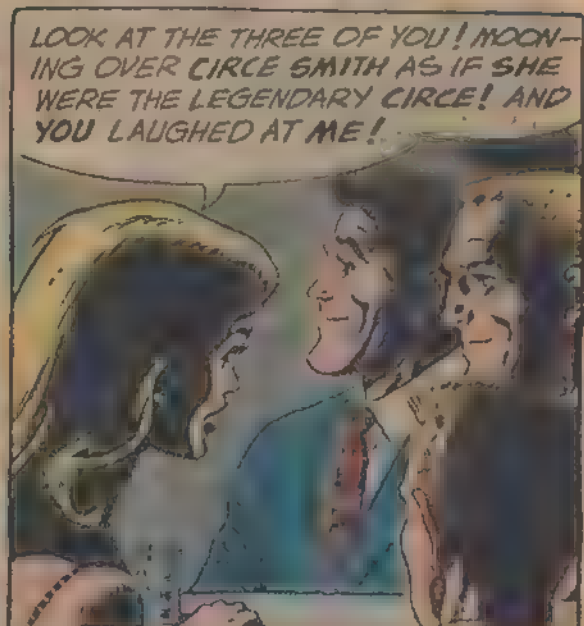
I GUESS GIRLS GO FOR THAT STUFF-- BUT NOT GUYS! THAT'S WHY I NEVER BELIEVED THAT LEGEND ABOUT CIRCE-- LURING SAILORS TO SHIPWRECK BY HER SINGING!

SLUDDENLY, A NEW, ALLURING STAR IS PRESENTED AND...



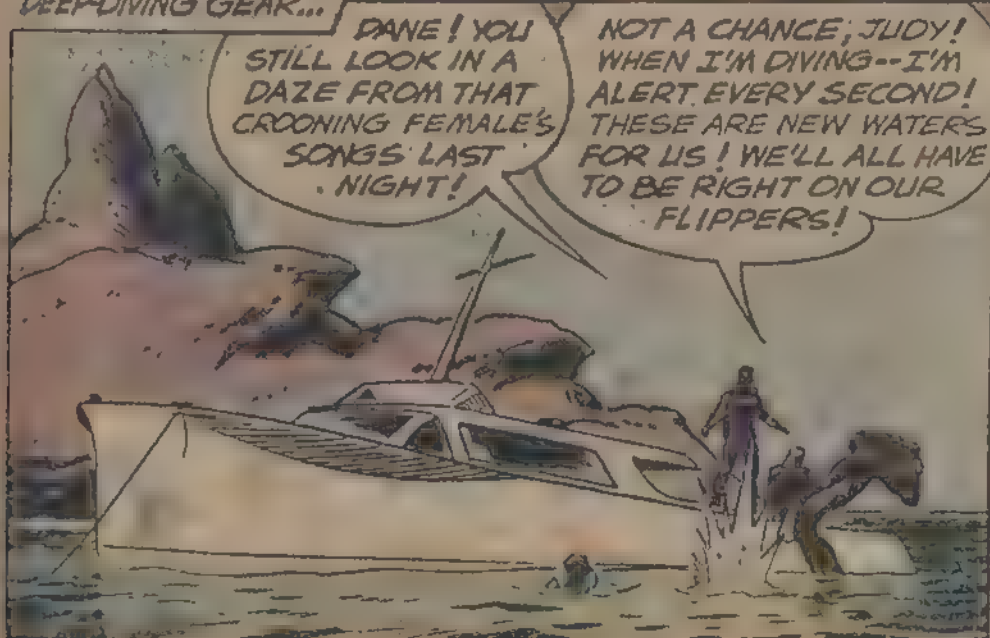
THAT'S MISS CIRCE! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! A VOICE LIKE THE WHISPER IN A SEASHELL!

BOY! SHE GIVES ME NITROGEN NARCOSIS!



LOOK AT THE THREE OF YOU! MOONING OVER CIRCE SMITH AS IF SHE WERE THE LEGENDARY CIRCE! AND YOU LAUGHED AT ME!

BUT, NEXT DAY, AS THE SEA DEVILS PREPARE TO TEST SOME NEW DEEP-DIVING GEAR...



DANE! YOU STILL LOOK IN A DAZE FROM THAT CROONING FEMALE'S SONGS' LAST NIGHT!

NOT A CHANCE, JUDY! WHEN I'M DIVING-- I'M ALERT EVERY SECOND! THESE ARE NEW WATERS FOR US! WE'LL ALL HAVE TO BE RIGHT ON OUR FLIPPERS!



THEN, AS THE DARING DIVE TEAM PLUMMETS INTO THE BROODING SEA...

WE'RE CAUGHT IN A MAELSTROM!

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE WHIRLING MAELSTROM CURRENT CARRIES THE SEA DEVILS DOWN...DOWN...DOWN...



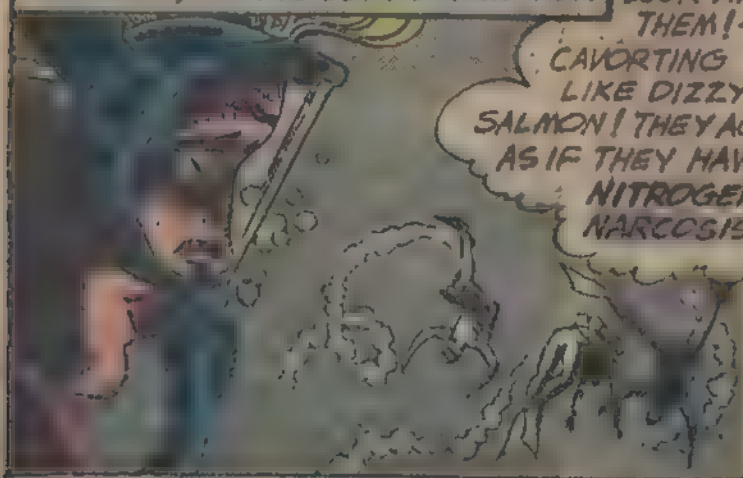
WHEN WILL IT STOP?!

UNTIL--FINALLY--IN A STRANGE, SHIMMERING DEPTH OF THE SEA THEY HAVE NEVER REACHED BEFORE...



THE BOYS LOOK BEWITCHED! AS IF THEY'RE--THEY'RE--HEARING THINGS!

SUDDENLY, JUDY IS LEFT BEHIND AS...



LOOK AT THEM!--

CAVORTING LIKE DIZZY SALMON! THEY ACT AS IF THEY HAVE NITROGEN NARCOSIS!

DOWN PLUMMETS JUDY AFTER THE OTHERS.. UNTIL... SHE IS STARTLED BY A BEAUTIFUL BUT CRUEL FIGURE!

I... I MUST BE GETTING NITROGEN NARCOSIS, TOO! I THINK I SEE A SEA SIREN--WH-WHO LOOKS LIKE CIRCE! AND--AND--SHE'S BEWITCHED THE BOYS!



WELCOME TO CIRCE'S WATERY HOME...FROM IT YOU SHALL NEVER WANT TO RISE...

NITROGEN NARCOSIS-- THE DANGEROUS 'RAPTURE OF THE DEEP!' THE RESULT OF DIVING AT GREAT DEPTHS...WHEREIN A DIVER LOSES ALL SENSE OF DANGER AND JUDGEMENT...

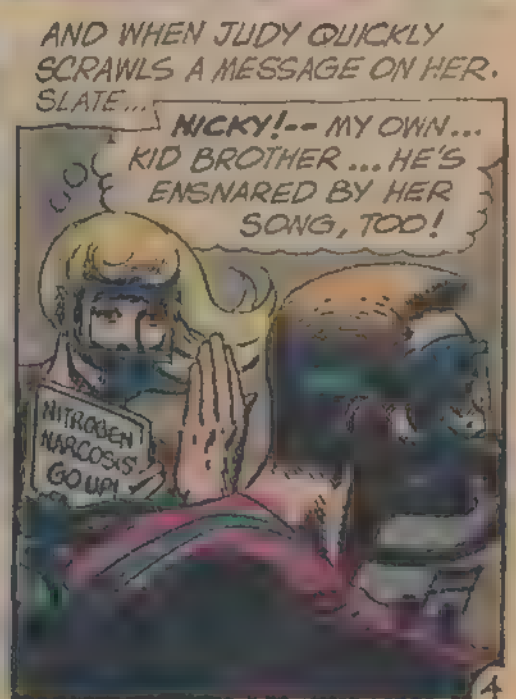
LUCKILY IT HASN'T AFFECTED ME YET! I MUST REACH THEM! MAKE THEM SURFACE! THEY MIGHT DO ANYTHING-- IN THIS STATE!



SEA DEVILS



BUT THE HANDSOME LEADER OF THE SEA DEVILS BREAKS THE INTREPID GIRL'S HEART BY...



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

UNABLE TO BREAK THE UNDERSEA SIREN'S SPELL ON HER TEAMMATES...

I-I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY DO TO ME!... I'VE GOT TO STAY... AND AWAIT MY CHANCE TO HELP THEM!

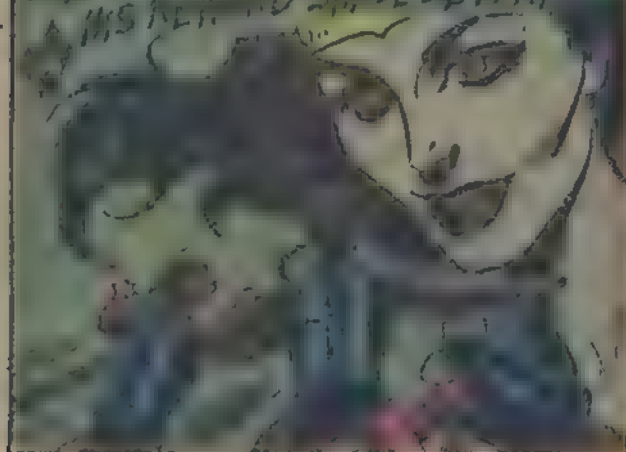


LIKE METAL CHIPS TO A MAGNET, THE THREE MALE SEA DEVILS ARE DRAWN TO THE CRIE! BEAUTIFUL GREY-GREEN EYES OF THE SIREN...



AND THEN...

TO EACH OF YOU, THE TASK I GIVE IS THIS... WHO BRINGS ME THE GREATEST TREASURE... HIS REWARD SHALL BE A KISS...



IMMEDIATELY THE THREE MESMERIZED DIVERS MADLY FLIPPER AWAY...

I'VE GOT TO WIN!

I'VE GOT TO WIN!

I'VE GOT TO WIN!



AS NICKY, THE BEWITCHED TEEN-AGER SPURTS OVER A CORAL FLATEAU...

A GOLDEN NECK-LACE IN THAT HOLE! MUST BE OLD PIRATE TREASURE! CIRCE WILL SURE GO FOR THAT!



BUT AS THE YOUTHFUL DIVER SEIZES THE PRIZE HE HOPES WILL WIN...

IT'S AN EEL! A GOLDEN EEL!



SEA DEVILS

IN ITS THRASHING TO ESCAPE THE GLITTERING EEL DRAWS NICKY DEEPER INTO THE INKY GROTTO...



BATTERED, BRUISED, BEATEN BY THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE CORAL TUNNEL...

I MUSTN'T LET GO... MUSTN'T...OR I'LL LOSE--!



FINALLY-- WE'RE OUT!--WE'RE OUT! THE EEL PULLED ME OUT OF THE OTHER END OF THE TUNNEL!

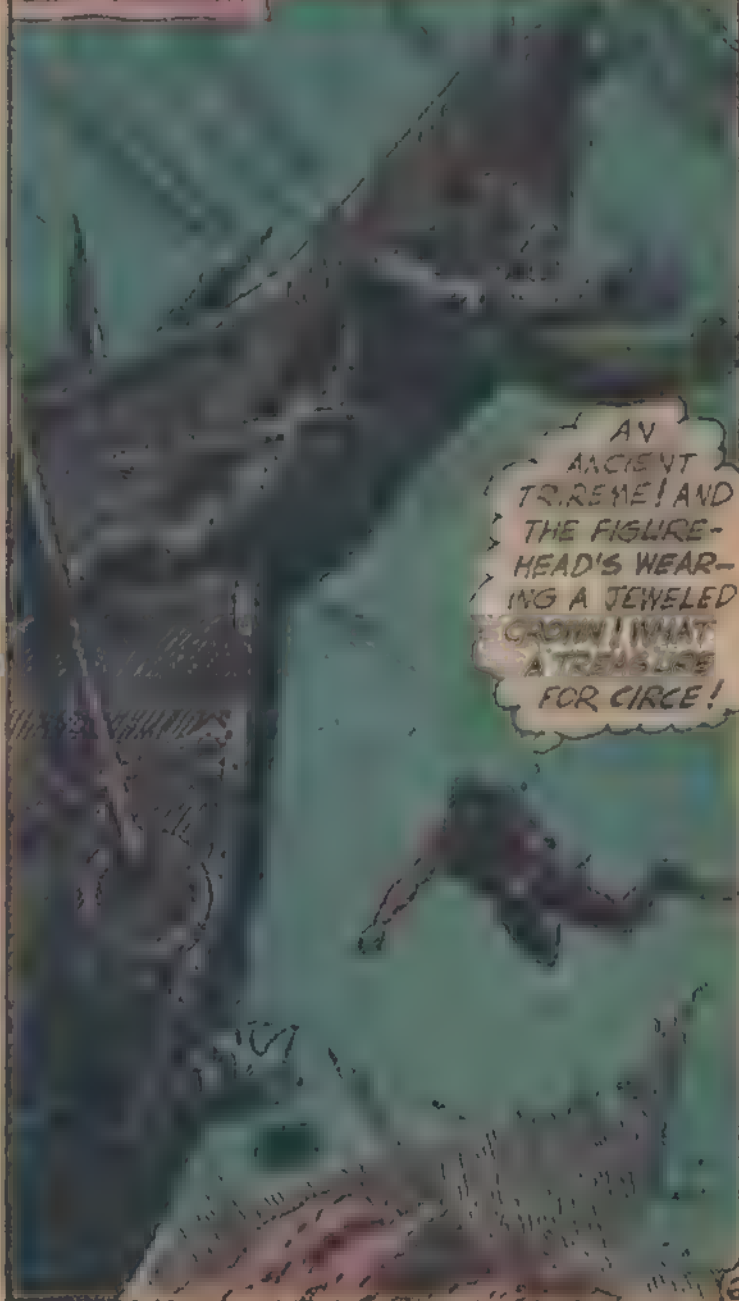


WHEN NICKY LAYS HIS HARD-POUN TREASURE AT THE SEA SIREN'S FEET...



SHE'S JUST HOLDING HIM WITH HER SMILE-- AND HER SONG-- WAITING UNTIL THE OTHERS RETURN WITH THEIR FINDS!

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY... THE BRAVNY BIFF FINDS...



AN ANCIENT TREASURE! AND THE FIGURE-HEAD'S WEARING A JEWELLED CROWN! WHAT A TREASURE FOR CIRCE!

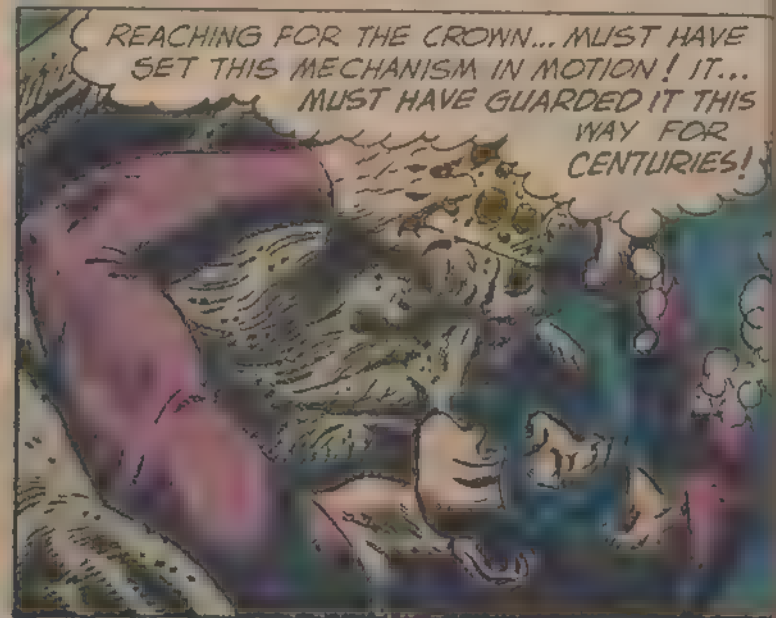
ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BUT AS BIFF REACHES FOR THE CROWN...



THE FIGURE-
HEAD'S ARMS
HAVE CLOSED
AROUND ME!

**THE MIGHTIEST OF THE SEA DEVILS FINDS HIM-
SELF IN A GRIP MORE POWERFUL THAN AN OCTOPUS!**



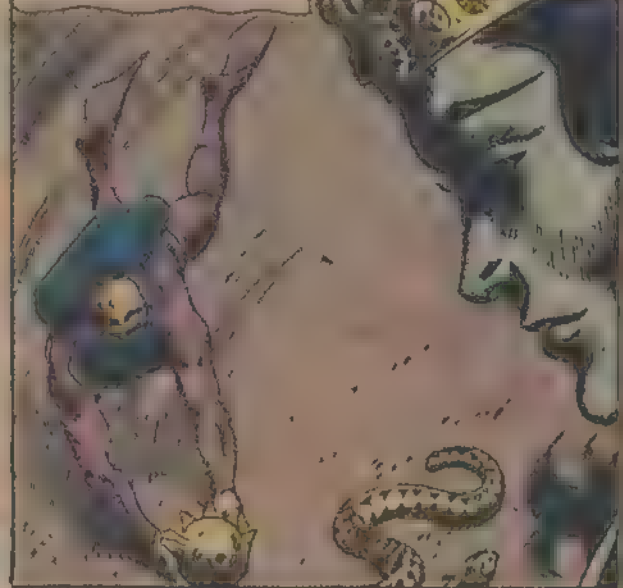
REACHING FOR THE CROWN... MUST HAVE
SET THIS MECHANISM IN MOTION! IT...
MUST HAVE GUARDED IT THIS
WAY FOR
CENTURIES!

**THE RIPPLING-MUSCLED BIFF FIGHTS FRANTICALLY
FOR THE JEWELLED CROWN... UNTIL...**



THE GRIP
LOOSENED... WHEN
I WRENCHED
THE WHOLE
FIGUREHEAD
AWAY!

**AT THE SEA SIREN'S FEET, BIFF LAYS
HIS TREASURE...**



WHILE JUDY MOURNS...

SHE'S NOT SAYING A WORD!
SHE'S JUST TORMENTING THEM
WITH HER SMILE AND HER
SONG WHILE SHE WAITS
FOR DANE TO COME BACK!



**MEANWHILE, DANE, THE LEADER OF THE
SIREN-BEWITCHED SEA DEVILS FINDS...**



AN ANTIQUE
MIRROR ENCRUSTED
WITH PEARLS!
CIRCE WILL SURELY
CHOOSE THIS
PRIZE!

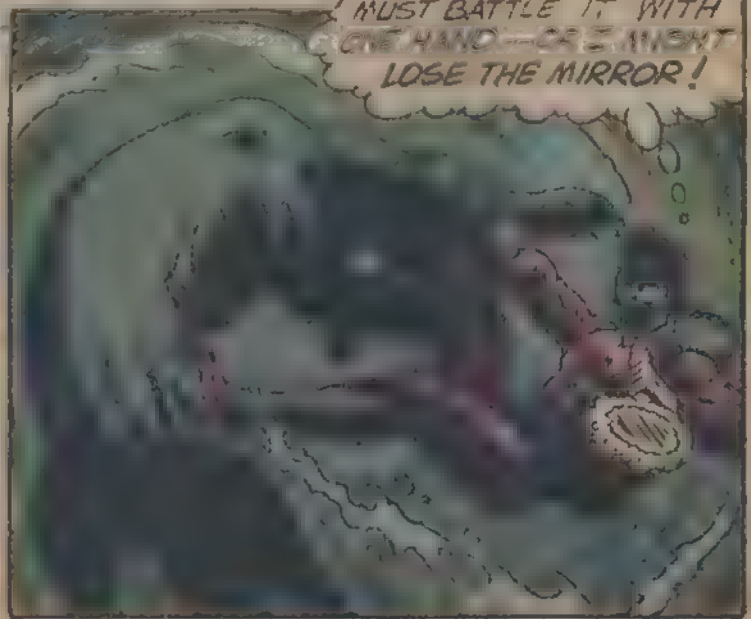
SEA DEVILS

BUT AS DANE REACHES FOR THE BEAUTIFULLY-
WROUGHT MIRROR...



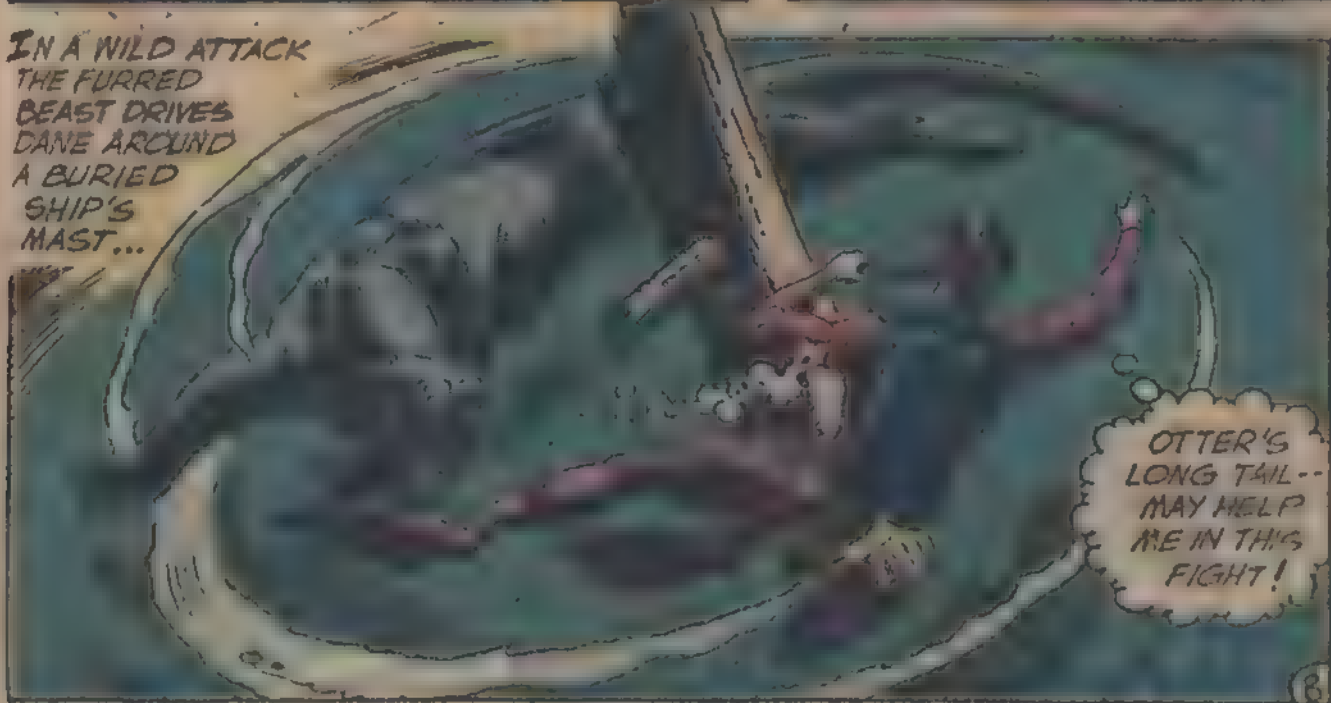
A GIANT
OTTER!
MUST BE THE
GUARDIAN-
OF THE
WRECK!

WITH FANG AND CLAW THE GREAT OTTER SLASHES
AT THE SKIN DIVER...



MUST BATTLE IT WITH
ONE HAND--OR I MIGHT
LOSE THE MIRROR!

IN A WILD ATTACK
THE FURRED
BEAST DRIVES
DANE AROUND
A BURIED
SHIP'S
MAST...

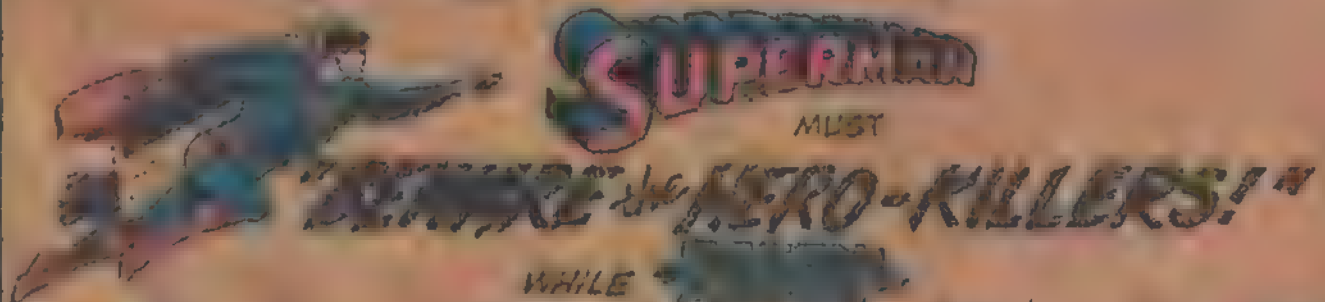


OTTER'S
LONG TAIL--
MAY HELP
ME IN THIS
FIGHT!

END OF
PART ONE!
PART TWO
CONTINUES
ON
PAGE
FOLLOWING

COMING SUPER-ATTR~~ACT~~IONS

IN THE NEXT ISSUE --FEBRUARY--NO 444
ASSASSINS ARE CLOSING IN!!
THEIR TARGETS--SUPER-HEROES OF EARTH!



WHILE

GETS THE SHOCKING NEWS...

"THE BLACK CANARY IS DEAD!"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER

SEA DEVILS

The SEA DEVILS BATTLE THE "GHOST FROM THE DEEP!" PART TWO

WHILE THE FRENZIED CREATURE TUGS WITH THE FURY OF A HURRICANE...

THEY HAVE
HITCHING
POSTS FOR
HORSES--
WHY NOT,
SEA
OTTERS?



BYE, PLAYMATE!
I'VE GOT A
DATE WITH A
SIREN!

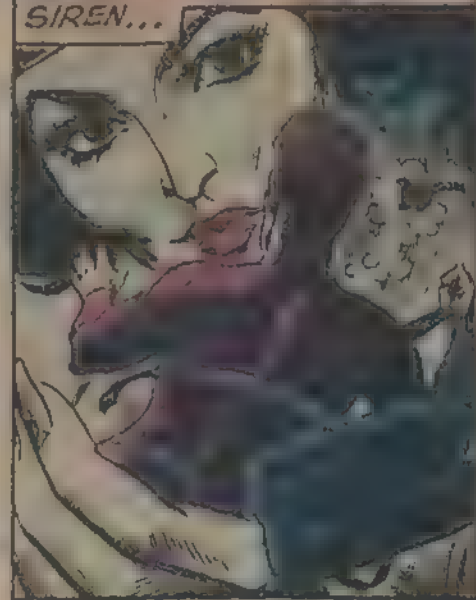


SOON, BEFORE THE SERPENT-GUARDED ROOST OF THE SEA SIREN...

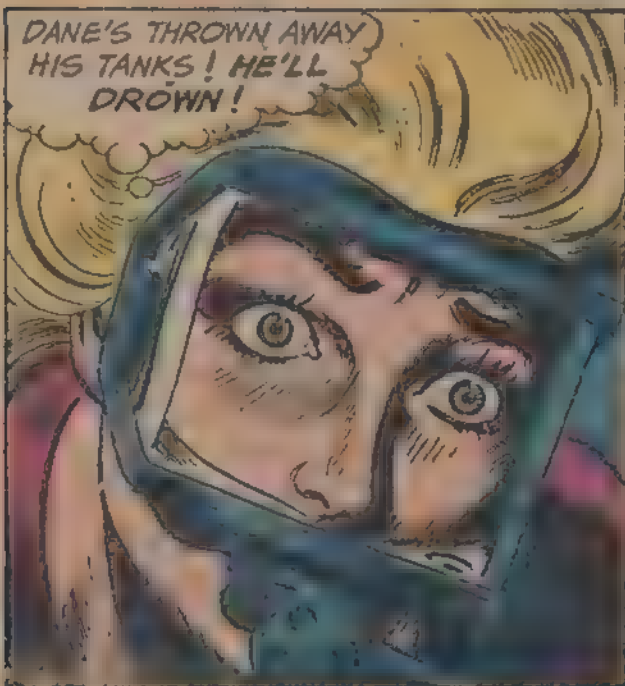
SHE'S CHOOSING
DANE! THE BOY I
LOVE! SHE MUST
HAVE HAD HER EYES
ON HIM ALL
THE TIME!



AS THE BEWITCHED DIVER
MOVES CLOSER TO THE SEA
SIREN...

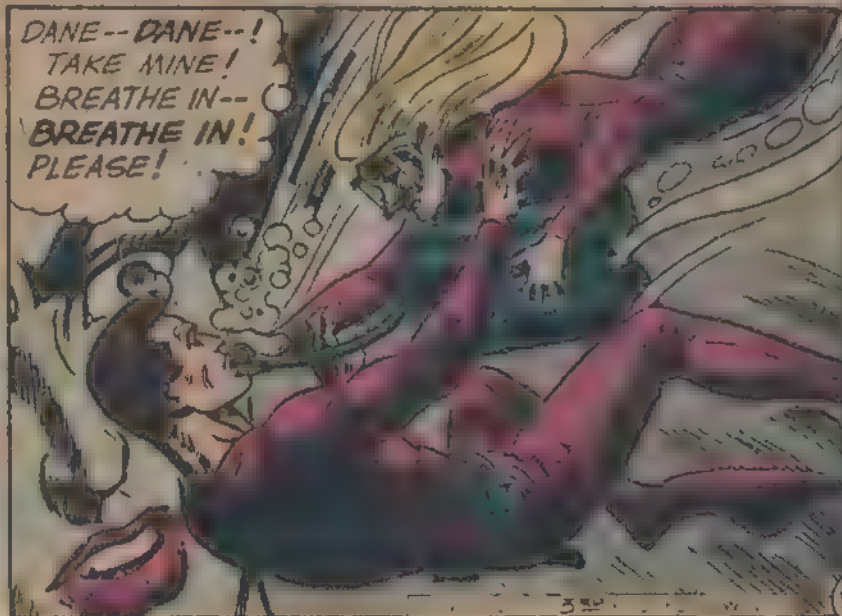


DANE'S THROWN AWAY
HIS TANKS! HE'LL
DROWN!



LIKE A FLASHING FISH THE SELF-SACRIFICING JUDY
HURTTLES BETWEEN DANE AND THE SEA SIREN, AND...

DANE--DANE--!
TAKE MINE!
BREATHE IN--
BREATHE IN!
PLEASE!



If you've ever said...

"There must be a better way to earn a living..."

one of our free Career Guidance Booklets may provide the opportunity you've been looking for.

It happens to all of us, sooner or later. No matter what kind of job we have.

One day, it suddenly strikes home that—like it or not—we're going to have to work for a living, the rest of our lives. And most of us are horrified at the thought of forever being locked into the jobs we now hold.

"Surely," we tell ourselves, "there must be a way to earn enough extra dollars each month to balance the family budget. Surely, there must be a way to get the kind of position where you don't have to worry about job security. Surely, there must be a way to get a job that offers greater opportunity for advancement, and more job satisfaction."

"Surely," in other words, "there must be a better way to earn a living!"

If you, too, have been thinking these thoughts, lately, you'll find one of our free Career Guidance Booklets very helpful at this time. We invite you to send for one.

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Apt. no. _____

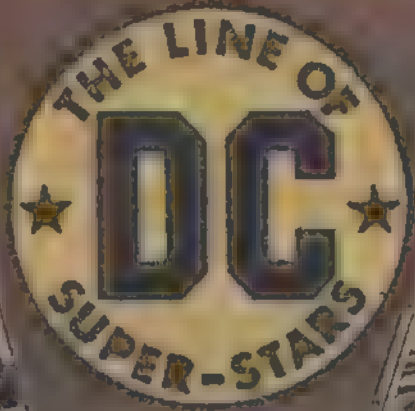
City _____

State _____

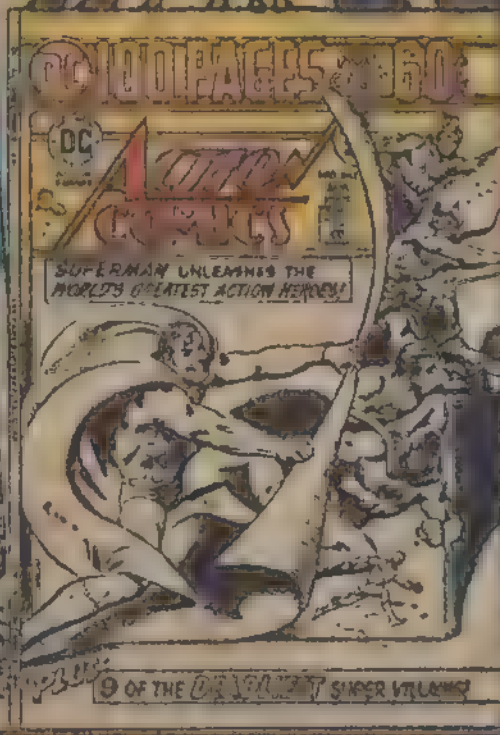
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COMICS!**



SEA DEVILS

HAVING THRUST HER OWN LIFE-GIVING TANKS ON DANE, JUDY DESPERATELY FLIPPERS UPWARDS.



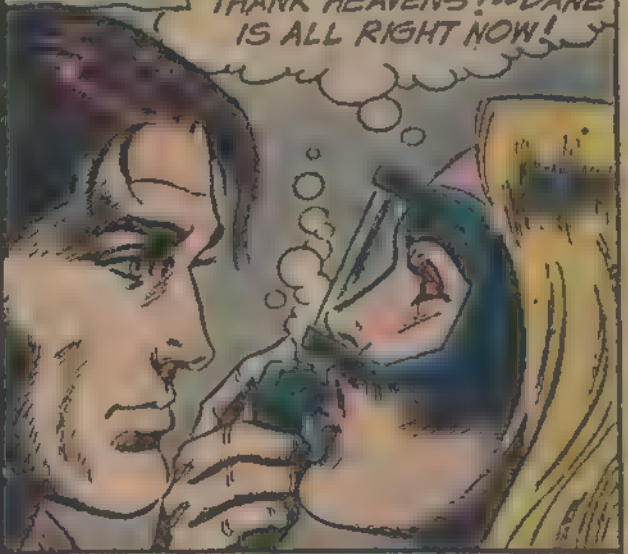
THE SIGHT OF JUDY HEADING TOWARDS DEATH--STARTLES THE SEA DEVILS OUT OF THEIR STATE...



AS DANE, FIGHTING BACK THE SPELL WHICH HAD HELD HIM, FLIPPERS UPWARDS.



SWIFTLY, DANE PASSES HIS MOUTHPIECE TO JUDY IN THE "BUDDY" BREATHING SYSTEM...



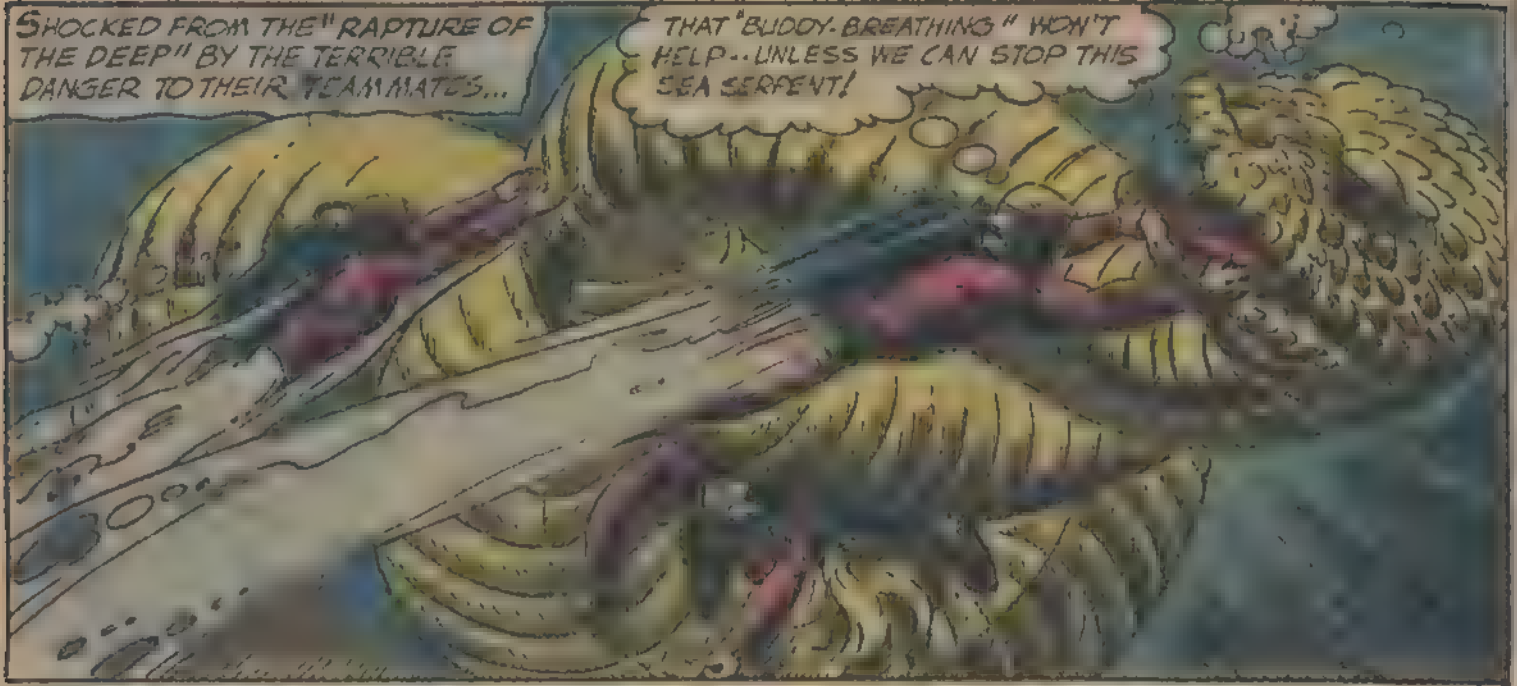
BUT, THE AVENGING SEA SERPENT COILS ITSELF AROUND THE TWO STRUGGLING SEA DEVILS...



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

SHOCKED FROM THE "RAPTURE OF THE DEEP" BY THE TERRIBLE DANGER TO THEIR TEAMMATES...

THAT "BUDDY-BREATHING" WON'T HELP...UNLESS WE CAN STOP THIS SEA SERPENT!



WHILE THE BAFFLED EYES OF THE SEA SIREN WATCH THE LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE...

THEY WILL BE DESTROYED!



SUDDENLY, LIKE AN UNDERSEA ELEVATOR, THE SEA DEVILS ARE SWEEPED INTO THE GRIP OF ANOTHER MAELSTROM...

CURRENT--RIPPING US AWAY FROM THAT SEA SERPENT--AND SIREN! BUT--WHERE TO--NOW?



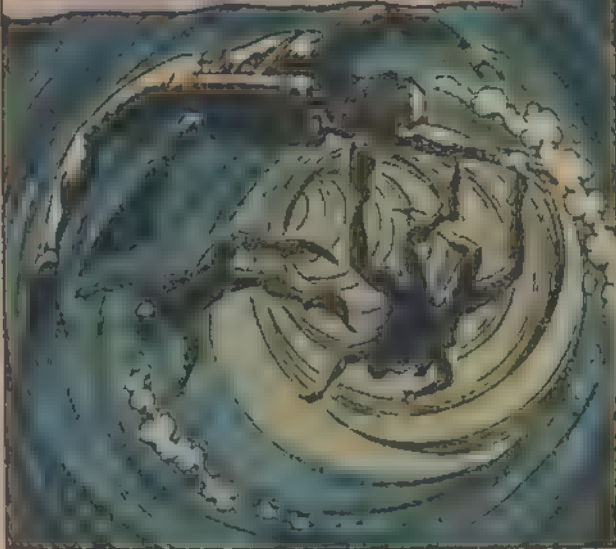
THE GRM STRUGGLE REACHES A CLIMAX...

WATER--GETTING SO TURBULENT--I'M LOSING MY GRIP!



SEA DEVILS

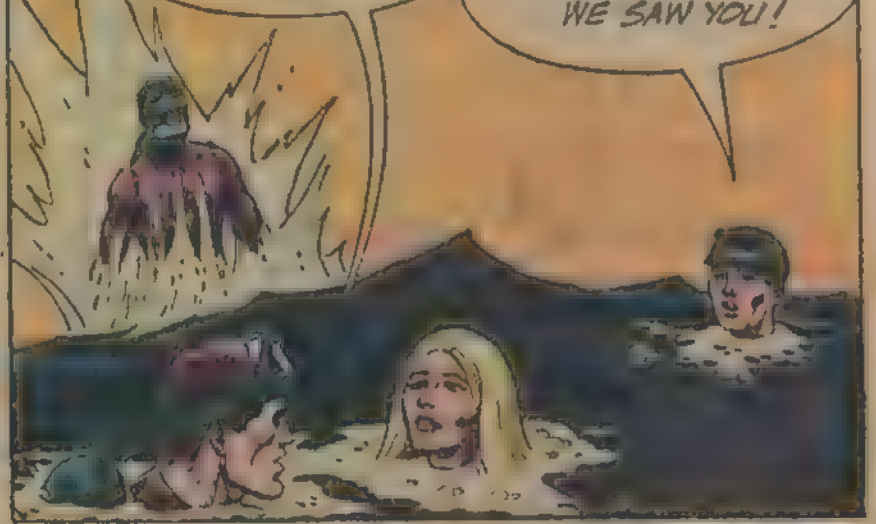
UP...UP...UP THE FOUR UNDERSEA ADVENTURERS ARE WHIRLED...



AND THEN...

HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR TANKS, JUDY?

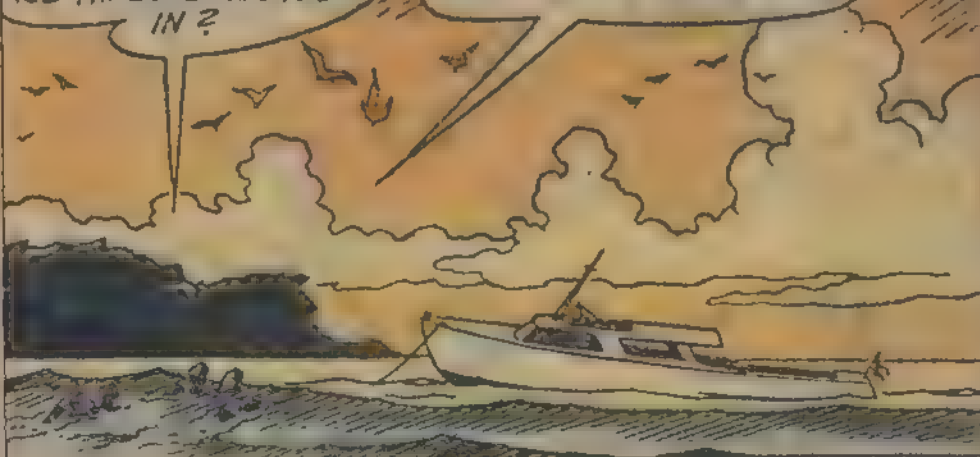
YES, SIS! YOU SURE GAVE US THE SCARE OF OUR LIVES WHEN WE SAW YOU!



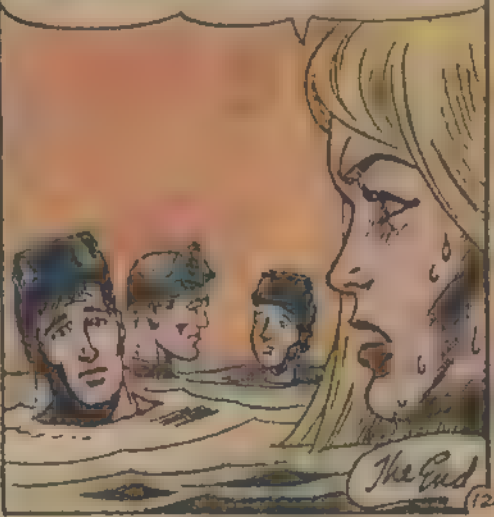
AMAZED, JUDY STARES AT HER THREE COMPANIONS...

YOU MEAN...YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE SEA SIREN... THE SINGING...THE DANGEROUS CONTEST YOU THREE COMPETED IN?

POOR KID! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DOWN TOO LONG -- WITHOUT AIR! YOU MUST HAVE HAD A TOUCH OF NITROGEN NARCOSIS!



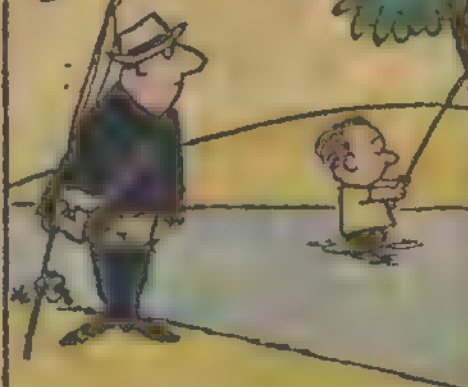
YOU MEN! YOU MAKE FOOLS OF YOURSELVES--THEN SO VERY CONVENIENTLY FORGET ABOUT IT! OHH--YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE!



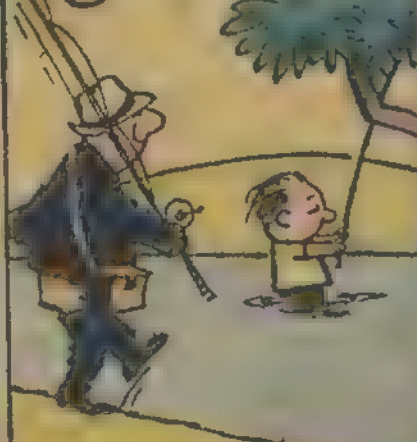
The End

THE QUIET MAN

①



②



③



SUPER-PUZZLE

P-13

by BOB RCZAKIS

#4



DIRECTIONS:

Figure out the mystery clues below and then fill in the letters in the numbered squares above. The result will be a famous superhero quote. (Note: The small letters in the boxes above correspond to the clues below.) Clue A is done as an example.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| a. Constructed | 67 21 114 92 124 | m. The Caped Crusader | 54 120 63 47 42 99 |
| b. Superman's secret identity | 45 66 2 130 95 104 24 73
115 | n. Wheel covering: _____ Cap | 79 127 87 |
| c. Nickname for Superman | 26 109 41 88 35 125 25 5
129 85 | o. Planet editor Perry | 76 110 111 7 60 |
| d. Opposite of negative | 118 46 12 123 38 82 51 86 | p. _____ Danvers | 22 17 90 113 61 |
| e. Galaxy boss, Morgan | 122 71 84 14 | q. Where Superman teams up
with The Batman | 32 48 28 37 91 103 1 50
83 33 75 57 |
| f. Clark's boyhood sweetheart | 65 9 133 80 119 53 18 74 | r. Wilderness route | 13 117 107 8 |
| g. Gave payment for | 128 40 98 16 | s. Ace reporter Jimmy | 44 23 126 52 121 |
| h. Hometown for Superman | 131 15 49 112 27 62 31 70
106 3 | t. Summer month | 132 68 19 36 116 4 |
| i. Lure in fishing | 110 11 69 78 | u. Superman's arch-foe | 59 89 100 39 58 34 |
| j. The Boy of Steel | 81 96 30 102 6 20 94 105 | | |
| k. Superman's girl friend | 55 93 72 108 43 64 10 56 | | |
| l. Baked dessert | 97 77 29 | | |

ANSWERS TO SUPER-PUZZLE
APPEAR ON PAGE 71.

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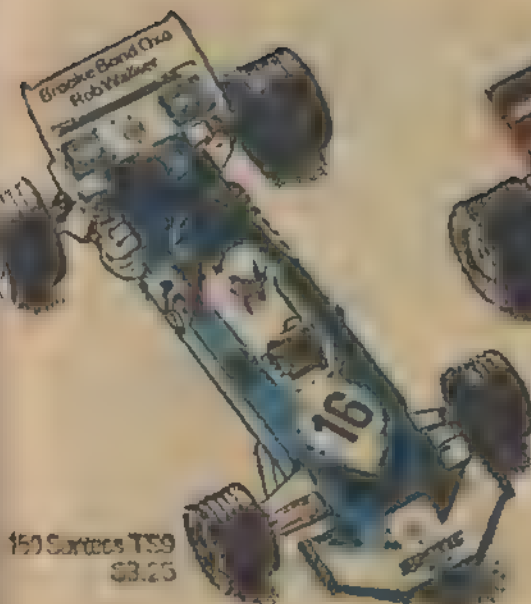


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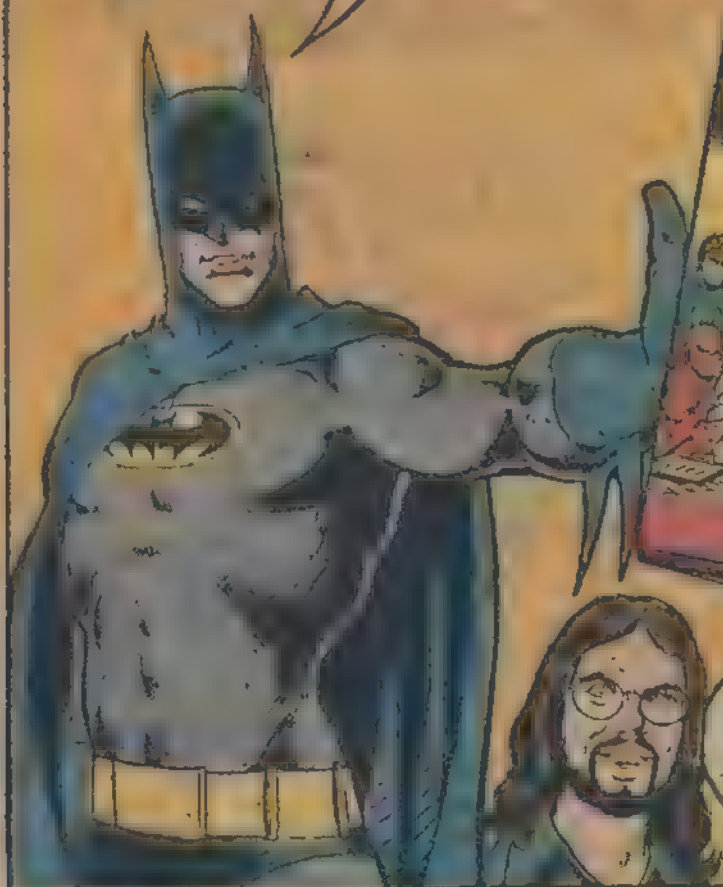
City.....State.....

Zip.....Age.....

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ELLIOT S. MAGGIN
AND I ARE IN THIS
ISSUE. IT'LL BE READY
FOR MAILING
SEPT. 15TH.**

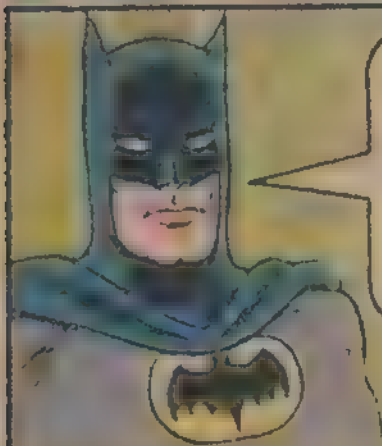


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- 61 ☐ OUR ARMY AT WAR
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NEXT IN THIS MAG
IS A THRILLING
TALE OF TROUBLE
ON THE TRAIL...
MATT SAVAGE
AND...

Action in the **WEST!**



MATT SAVAGE **TRAIL BOSS**



IT'S A LANDSLIDE!
MILL THE HERD TO KEEP
'EM FROM STAMPEDIN'!

THE DOG IRON TRAIL HERD HITS THE TEXAS TRAIL -- AND RUNS RIGHT INTO TROUBLE! STANDING FOURSQUARE AGAINST THE RUTHLESSNESS OF NATURE ON A RAMPAGE -- HOLDING FIRM AGAINST THE BULLETS OF GREEDY MEN -- PUTTING THE WELFARE OF HIS HERD AND THE SAFETY OF HIS MEN BEFORE HIS OWN -- IS **MATT SAVAGE, TRAIL BOSS!** ALONE AND ON FOOT, WITHOUT A GUN TO PROTECT HIMSELF, HE HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND BY A REBELLIOUS CREW TO FACE THE FIRE OF MERCILESS GUNMEN...

REVOLT *in* **PAINTED CANYON!**

STORY:
GARDNER FOX

ART:
GIL KANE & JOE GIELLA

Action SUPER-SPECTACULAR

A FEEBLE ARCHES THROUGH THE CHILL NIGHT AIR TOWARD A SLEEPING TRAIL-DROVER...

MATT SAVAGE WARNED US AGAINST MAKIN' ANY NOISE THAT'LL ALARM THE HERD... SO I'LL WAKE RED THIS WAY...



A BLANKETED FIGURE STIRS, SITS UP, BLINKS, THEN REACHES TO SHAKE A FELLOW SLEEPER.

CLAY'S RIDIN' THE ONE O'CLOCK SHIFT WITH ME! TIME FOR US TO MAKE OUR ROUNDS!



A BOOTFALL CRUNCHES DRY, THERE IS THE FAINT CREAK OF SADDLE LEATHER, AND THE ONE-TO-DAWN SHIFTER MOVES TOWARD THE TRAIL HERD'S BEDDING GROUND...



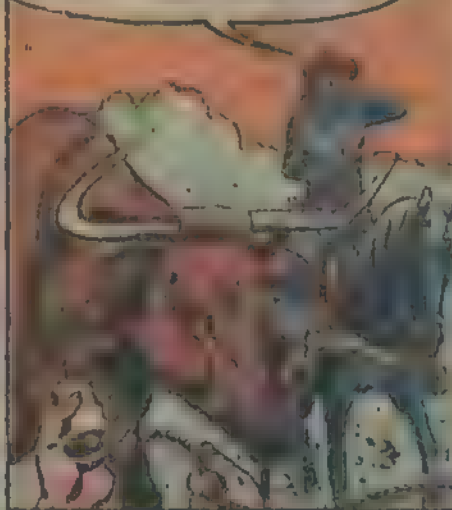
ROUND AND ROUND THE HERD THE TWO NIGHT-HAWKS PACE, SINGING SOFTLY-- AND AS SWEETLY AS THEY CAN-- TO SOOTHE THE RESTLESS STEERS...

WHAT KEEPS THE HERD FROM RUNNING... THE COWBOY SINGING BY THEIR SIDE...



AS DAWN REDDENS THE SAGE COUNTRY, THE HERD RISES TO BROWSE AND IT IS THEN THAT MATT SAVAGE--TRAIL BOSS--SHOUTS OUT...

LOOSE THE BELL AND-- POINT 'EM NORTH!*



*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE LEAD STEER, BEHIND WHICH CAME ALL THE OTHERS, WAS HUNG WITH A BELL WHICH THE HERD FOLLOWED AS IF HYPNOTIZED. THE CLAPPER WAS TIED AT NIGHT, FOR IF IT SOUNDED DURING THE DARK STRETCHES, THE HERD WOULD BE ON ITS FEET, READY TO RUN...



WITH OL' FAITHFUL IN THE VAN THE HERD BEGINS ANOTHER DAY OF HOT, DUSTY TRAVEL NORTHWARD OVER THE TEXAS TRAIL, LEADING TO THE RAILHEAD TOWNS OF KANSAS...

KEEP 'EM MOVING, KEEP 'EM MOVING!



MATT SAVAGE, TRAIL BOSS

AT THE NOONDAY HALT, BISCUITS BAKER, THE COOK, NOTICES AN ODD PHENOMENON...

MATT, THAT POT WAS JUST
A-HANGIN' THERE WHEN ALL
OF A SUDDEN SHE STARTED
SWINGIN' BACK AN' FORTH!

THE ONLY OTHER
TIME I SAW THAT
HAPPEN-- WELL,
I DON'T LIKE TO
THINK ABOUT IT!



SLOWLY THE HERD ROLLS ON, OVER THE WEST GULF PLAINS, PAST THE PALO BLANCO CREEK...

TINKLE!
TINKLE!



WITH THE ABRUPTNESS OF A FLASH FLOOD,
THE EARTH QUIVERS ONCE--TWICE, THEN
THE OMINOUS RUMBLE OF FALLING ROCKS
ALONG THE TRAIL...

MILL THE HERD
TO KEEP 'EM FROM
STAMPEDIN'.
THERE'S AN EARTH-
QUAKE UNDERFOOT
AND A LANDSLIDE
UP AHEAD!



IT WAS JUST AS I FEARED. EARTH TREMORS MADE THE STEWPOT DANCE! I SAW IT HAPPEN ONCE BEFORE AND THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH FOLLOWED IT! WE SURE WERE LUCKY, LUTE! IF THE HERD HAD BEEN CAUGHT UNDER THOSE ROCKS NONE OF US WOULD BE ALIVE NOW!

WHAT'LL
WE DO,
BOSS?



PAINTED CANYON IS THE ONLY PASSAGEWAY THROUGH HERE THAT'LL KEEP US ON THE TRAIL! IF IT'S BLOCKED UP WITH ROCKS-- WE'LL HAVE TO BACKTRACK A DOZEN MILES!



See the Mystery of the Super detailed assembly kits
strange change wit

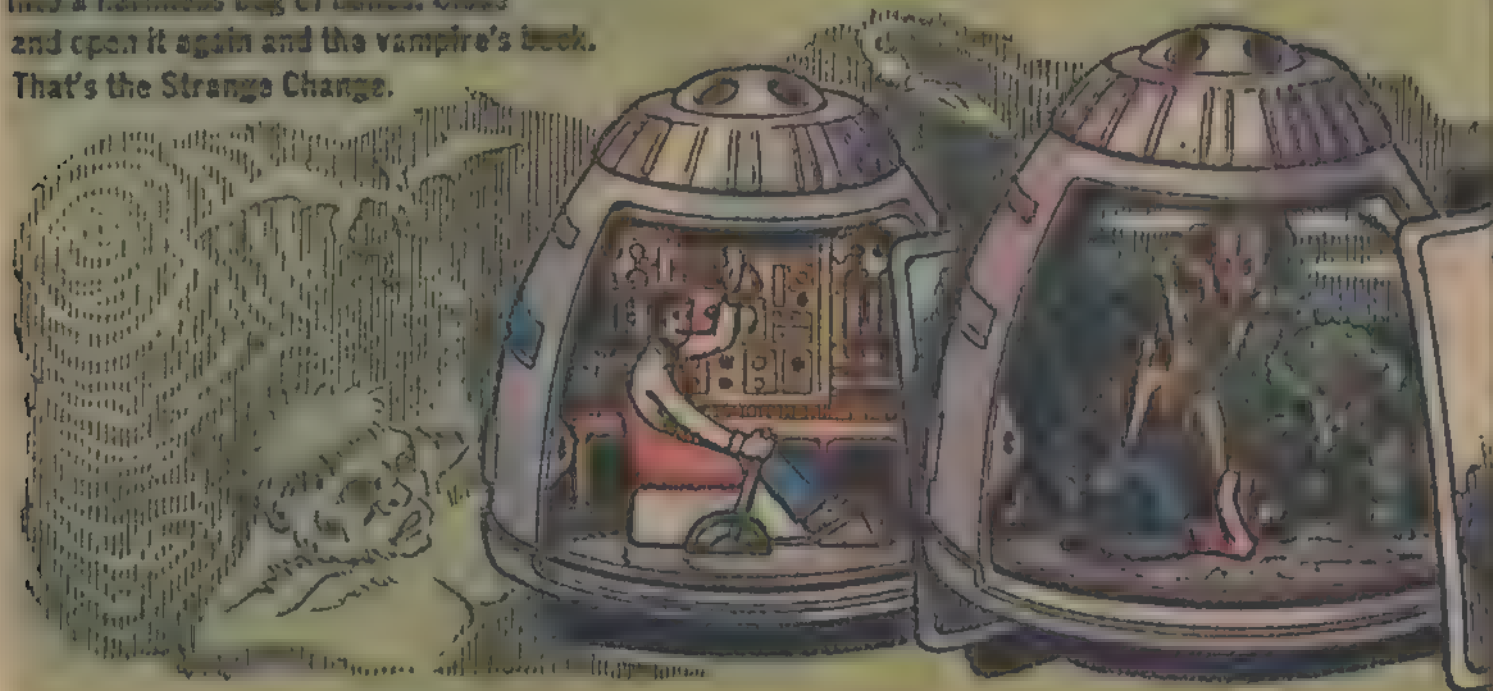
IT'S WEIRD, WEIRD, WEIRD

The Strange Changing

VAMPIRE



Open the lid
on this ornately
engraved casket and you'll find
a snarling vampire loering at you.
Close it, open again and he's changed
into a harmless bag of bones. Close
and open it again and the vampire's back.
That's the Strange Change.



with mysteriously changing contents... Easy to build, wild fun to show.

The Strange Changing MUMMY



Open the finely completed mummy case and you'll find ol' Pharaoh resting peacefully. Close it, open again and now he's doing everything but coming out of the case. Quick! Close it! Open it again and everything's cool.

The Strange Changing

TIME MACHINE

Open the door and there's the Time Traveler ready to do his thing. Close the door and open it again. Something went wrong... he's caught in the midst of prehistoric beasts! Close the door, open it again and he's back safe and sound.

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ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

FROM THE HEIGHT OF A HOGBACK RIDGE, THE TRAIL BOSS STUDIES THE DEBRIS OF PAINTED CANYON...

IT'S BLOCKED SOLID! WE CAN NEVER GET THROUGH THIS WAY!

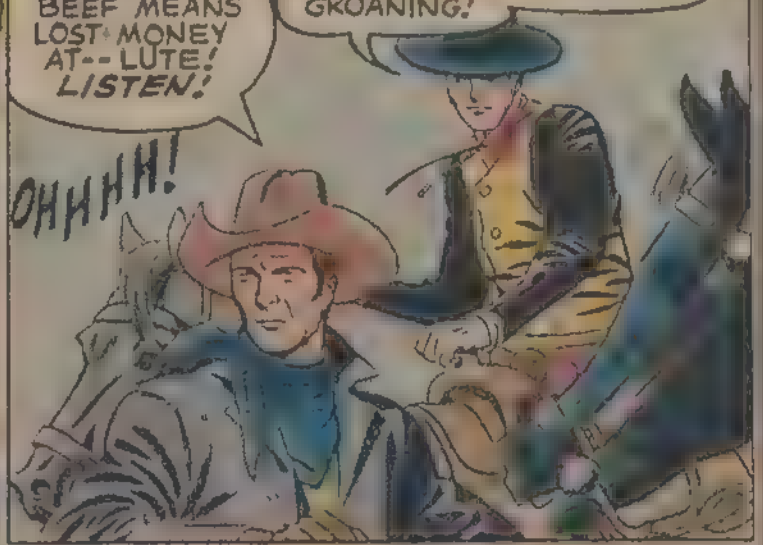
GOING BACK MEANS TWO DAYS LOST, AND THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF BEEF OFF THE STEERS!



A LOSS OF BEEF MEANS LOST MONEY AT-- LUTE! LISTEN!

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY GROANING!

OH HHHH!



AT A POUNDING GALLOP THE TRAIL RIDERS THUNDER DOWN ON A GIRL WHO LIES PINNED BENEATH SOME FALLEN ROCKS...

THE GIRL'S ANKLE IS PINNED UNDER THAT ROCK!

MY HORSE WAS FRIGHTENED BY THE LANDSLIDE AND THREW ME! I CAN'T GET FREE!



MUSCLES BUNCHING UNDER THE TERRIFIC STRAIN, MATT AND HIS YOUNG TRAIL-HAND SLOWLY LIFT THE LOG AND BOULDER...

CAN YOU--GET YOUR FOOT OUT--NOW, MA'AM?

YES--THANKS! OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME ALONG! NOW I CAN GET ON MY WAY TO SAN PATRICIO TO GET THE SHERIFF!



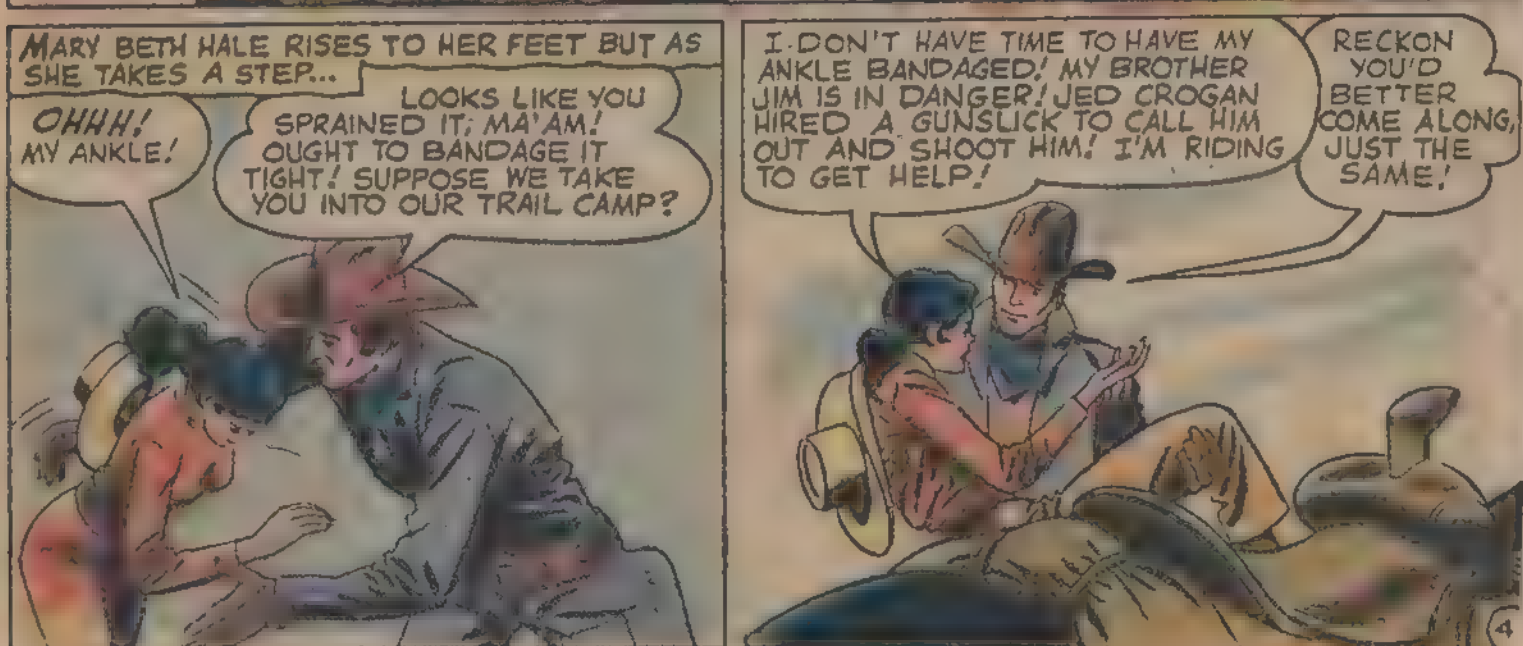
MARY BETH HALE RISES TO HER FEET BUT AS SHE TAKES A STEP...

OH HHH! MY ANKLE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU SPRAINED IT, MA'AM! OUGHT TO BANDAGE IT TIGHT! SUPPOSE WE TAKE YOU INTO OUR TRAIL CAMP?

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HAVE MY ANKLE BANDAGED! MY BROTHER JIM IS IN DANGER! JED CROGAN HIRED A GUNSLICK TO CALL HIM OUT AND SHOOT HIM! I'M RIDING TO GET HELP!

RECKON YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG, JUST THE SAME!



MATT SAVAGE, TRAIL BOSS

AT THE CAMP A LITTLE LATER...

JED CROGAN'S THE RICHEST RANCHER AROUND THESE PARTS! HE'S AFTER OUR LITTLE RANCH BECAUSE --

I BET I CAN GUESS! HE WANTS YOUR GRAZE GRASS AND WATER! IF I'VE HEARD THAT STORY ONCE, I'VE HEARD IT A HUNDRED TIMES!

WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME? YOU CAN STOP THAT GUN-SLINGER FROM KILLING MY BROTHER! IF HE SHOOTS JIM, I'LL BE FORCED TO SELL OUT TO CROGAN!

WELL NOW, MA'AM -- I'VE GOT TO CONSIDER MY HERO FIRST, BUT I'LL TRY AND THINK OF SOMETHING!

MOMENTS LATER, "FAST-GUN" LUTE JONES CLIPS AWAY FROM THE LITTLE GROUP AROUND THE CAMP-FIRE...

I GOT A PLAN WORKED OUT HOW TO TRAP THAT GUNSLINGER INTO SHOOTING IT OUT WITH ME -- INSTEAD OF JIM HALE!

THE PLAINS TOWN OF DRY GRASS IS JUST A COLLECTION OF DUSTY, SUN-BAKED FALSE-FRONTS FACING BOTH SIDES OF A DIRT STREET, LIKE SO MANY OTHER TOWNS BORDERING THE GREAT TEXAS "RAIL..."

AS HE SWINGS DOWN BEFORE THE TIE-RAIL OF A SMALL HOTEL, LUTE'S HARD VOICE BREAKS THE DROWSY SILENCE...

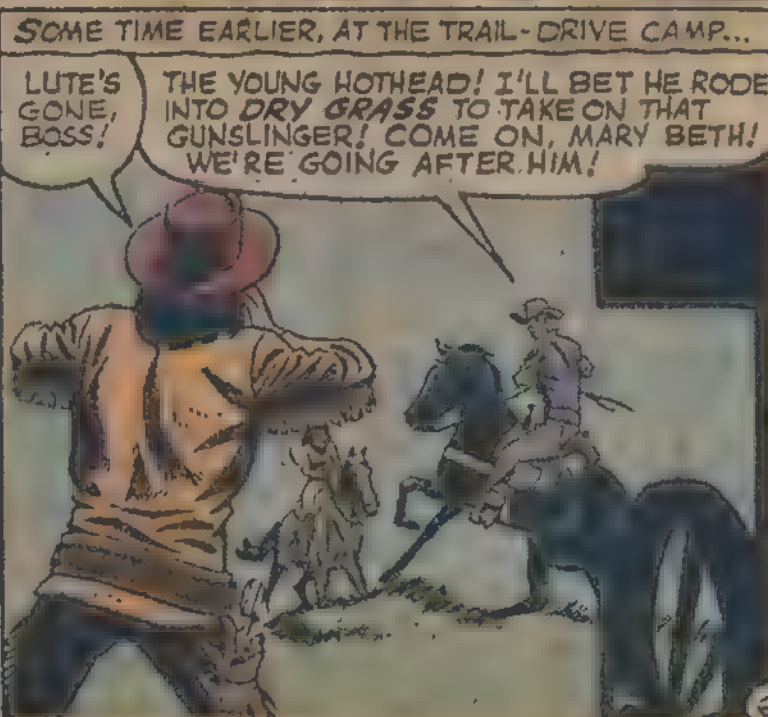
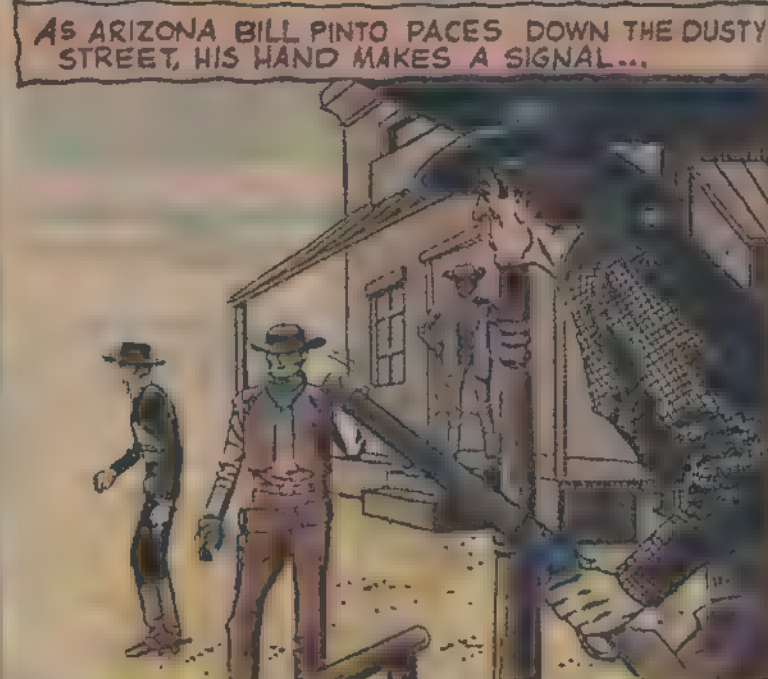
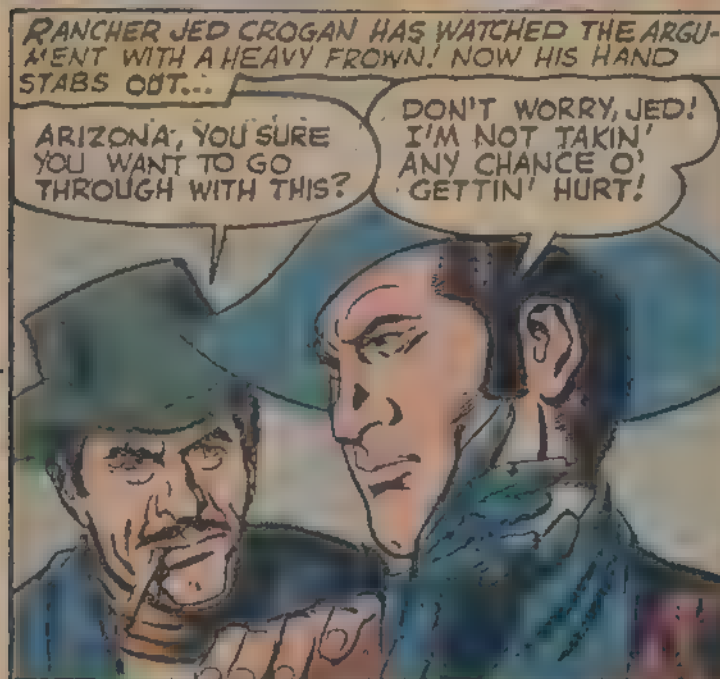
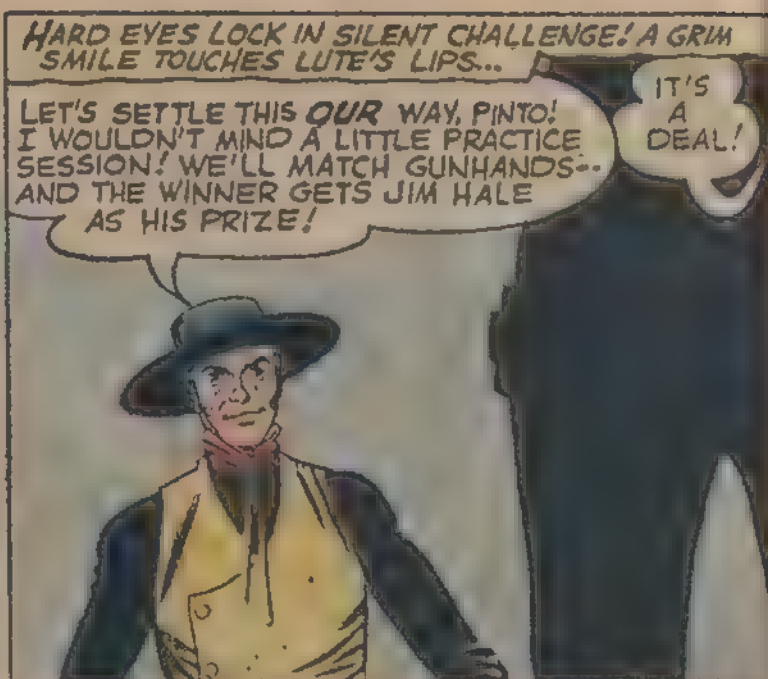
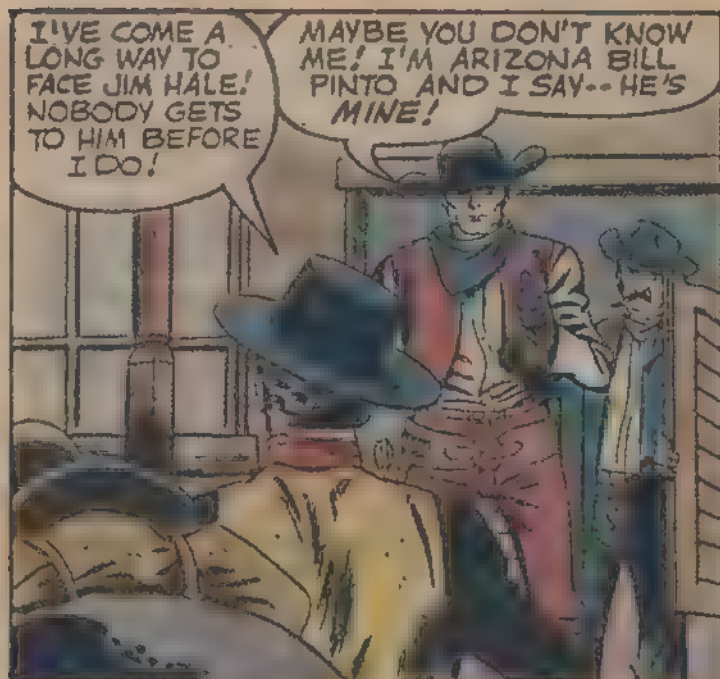
HOMBRE DOWN TEXAS WAY TOLD ME I'D FIND JIM HALE IN THIS TOWN!

HE OWNS THE PICKETWIRE SPREAD FIVE MILES FROM HERE! MATTER OF FACT HE'S EXPECTED IN ANY MINUTE FOR A GUNFIGHT!

GLAD TO HEAR THET--BECAUSE I'VE RIDDEN A MITE TO THROW LEAD WITH HIM!

HOLD ON, STRANGER! I HAVE A BETTER RIGHT THAN YOU TO GUN DOWN JIM HALE!

Action SUPER-SPECTACULAR



MATT SAVAGE, TRAIL BOSS

RIDING HARD, MATT SAVAGE AND MARY BETH HALE POUND INTO TOWN AS LUTE JONES AND ARIZONA BILL PINTO TAKE THEIR STANDS--

SHERIFF, STOP THOSE MEN!

I CAN'T DO THAT! THEY CALLED EACH OTHER OUT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DO IN OTHER TOWNS-- BUT IN DRY GRASS WE LET 'EM SHOOT IT OUT!



A HUSH FALLS LIKE A SILKEN MANTLE OVER THE TOWN, AS FROM EITHER END OF THE SINGLE DUSTY STREET THE GUNMEN BEGIN THEIR WALK, BOOTS SHUFFLING IN THE DUST...



LEATHER HOLSTERS ARE TIED LOW TO MAKE CERTAIN THE COLT PEACEMAKERS "CLEAR LEATHER," AND CURVING FINGERTIPS BRUSH WORN WALNUT BUTTPLATES AS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM LESSENS...



THE GUNMEN HALT! EACH MAN TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND THEN...



AT THAT SAME MOMENT--SO TIMED THAT ALL FOUR SHOTS PRACTICALLY SOUND AS ONE-- MATT SAVAGE DRAWS AND FIRES...



HIS BULLET SLAMS INTO THE WINCHESTER POKING FROM THE HOTEL WINDOW, DEFLECTING ITS BULLET HARMLESSLY INTO THE AIR!



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

IN THE EXCITEMENT, NO ONE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO LUTE'S VICTORY OVER ARIZONA BILL...

DON'T MOVE, CROGAN! YOU KNEW THAT BACKSHOOTER WAS FIXING TO PLUG LUTE! YOU GAVE IT AWAY BY BEING THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS WATCHING THAT HOTEL WINDOW WHERE HE WAS HIDDEN! THE REST WERE WATCHING THE GUNFIGHTERS!

YOU'RE LOCO, SAVAGE! PLUMB LOCO!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

WHOEVER IT WAS, GOT AWAY OVER THE ROOFTOPS, SAVAGE!

THEN I CAN'T PROVE YOU WERE IN ON THE BACKSHOOTING CROGAN--OR I MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO CALL YOU OUT!

BUT IF I HEAR THAT ANYTHING HAPPENS TO JIM HALE OR HIS SISTER MARY BETH--ANYTHING AT ALL--I'M COMING BACK FOR YOU, UNDERSTAND?

N-NOthing WILL HAPPEN! I-I GUESS I DON'T WANT THEIR LAND AFTER ALL!

SUDDENLY A PLAINTIVE VOICE CALLS OUT..

HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M HURT!

AW, IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND, ARIZONA! IF THE DOC WERE HERE HE COULD PATCH IT UP--BUT HE'S ON HIS ROUNDS AND WON'T BE BACK FOR A COUPLA DAYS!

TWO DAYS? NO DOCTOR? I'M HURT? I GOTTA HAVE HELP!

OH, STOP WHINING! I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY CAMP AND PATCH YOU UP, THEN BRING YOU BACK TO THE SHERIFF TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT BACKSHOOTER!

YOUNG LUTHER JONES EYES HIS TRAIL BOSS WITH PUZZLED RESPECT...

MATT, YOU MUST BE MIGHTY FAST WITH A SIX-GUN YOURSELF--TO BEAT A RIFLE TRIGGER-FINGER!

YOU GOT YOUR MAN! I GOT MINE! LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT...

MATT SAVAGE, TRAIL BOSS

AN HOUR LATER, AFTER MATT SAVAGE HAS BANDAGED BILL PINTO...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WE'RE TAKING OVER THE HERD, SAVAGE! YOU DIDN'T THINK WE CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE, DID YOU?



AS THE ATTENTION OF THE TRAIL-MEN IS FOCUSED ON THE DRAMA BEING ENACTED BEFORE THEM, THE GUNSLINGER WHIRLS TO RUN...

WE'LL SELL THE HERD AND SPLIT THE PROFITS! SEARCH HIM TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T HAVE A HIDDEN WEAPON! WE'RE TAKING YOUR HORSE, TOO, SO YOU CAN'T FOLLOW US!

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY!



AFTER-WARD IN TOWN...

SAVAGE IS UNARMED AND WITHOUT A HORSE, CROGAN! FORGET THE HERD! GO AFTER HIM!

I INTENDED TO SHOOT UP AND STAMPEDE HIS STEERS BUT THIS IS A BETTER WAY TO GET EVEN WITH HIM! YOU GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM TOO, HANK! LET'S RIDE!



HIGHTAILING IT ALONG THE PAINTED CANYON TRAIL, CROGAN AND HANK BLANE SOON OVERTAKE THE UN-ARMED, WALKING TRAIL BOSS...

THERE HE IS--! DIVING FOR COVER! WE'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM ON FOOT!

WE'LL SPLIT UP! YOU GO LEFT, I'LL GO RIGHT!



IN AND OUT AMONG THE ROCKS THE GRIM GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK GETS UNDER WAY-- ONE UN-ARMED MAN AGAINST TWO DEADLY KILLERS!

COME ON OUT, SAVAGE! YOU CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER!

ALL WE NEED IS ONE LOOK AT YOU TO FINISH YOU OFF!



AHEAD OF THEM HIDES MATT, SCARCELY BREATHING, WAITING HIS CHANCE! AS A PAIR OF DUSTY BOOTS STEPS INTO VIEW HIS MIGHTY ARM FLAILS HIS HEAVY SHELLBELT LIKE A WHIP..

I EVENED MATTERS BY GETTING THEM OFF THEIR BRONCS! NOW I'VE GOT TO GET ME A GUN!



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE TRAIL BOSS HURTLES AT HIS FALLING FOE...

I DIDN'T DARE THROW A ROCK AT HIM FROM AFAR BECAUSE I HAD TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO GRAB HIS RIFLE WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF!



WHIRLING AT SOUNDS OF THE SCUFFLE, JED CROGAN FIRES-- THEN JUMPS FOR SHELTER BEHIND A BOULDER...

NO HARM DONE-- THAT BOULDER IS PROTECTING ME FROM CROGAN'S GUN-FIRE!



THEN, RIFLE IN HANDS, MATT SAVAGE WHIRLS TOWARD THE HIDDEN RANCHER AND SCORNS COVER, ADVANCING BOLDLY ACROSS THE SHALE-STREWN GROUND...

ARE YOU COMING OUT, CROGAN? OR DO I GO BEHIND THAT ROCK AFTER YOU?



STARK FEAR ETCHES GRIM LINES ACROSS THE FACE OF THE RANCHER AS HE HUGS HIS COVERING ROCK...

IF I SHOW MYSELF TO TAKE A SHOT AT HIM-- HE'LL PLUG ME!



SWEAT TRICKLES DOWN HIS FOREHEAD AS TERROR GLAZES HIS EYES...

HE WON'T MISS EITHER! I SAW HOW HE SHOT THAT RIFLE OUT OF HANK BLANE'S HANDS IN TOWN! HE'S GOT ME EITHER WAY! B-BUT I D-DON'T WANT TO GET SHOT!



PALE AND TREMBLING, JED CROGAN HURLS HIS WINCHESTER TO THE GROUND AND SCREAMS HIS SURRENDER...

I QUIT, I QUIT! DON'T SHOOT, SAVAGE!

THEN GET YOUR HANDS HIGH AND COME ALONG NICE AND PEACEFUL!



AS A PEBBLE GRATES UNDERFOOT BEHIND HIM, MATT WHIRLS...

HEY, BOSS... IT'S US-- GRANT AND DIXON! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT NEED HELP, NOT HAVING A GUN AND ALL-- BUT WERE WE EVER WRONG!

I THOUGHT YOU FELLERS STOLE HIS HERD!

THAT'S WHAT MATT HERE WANTED YOU TO THINK! HE FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO GET EVEN WITH HIM BY SHOOTING UP THE HERD! HE PLANNED TO MOVE THE HERD BACK OUT OF HARM'S WAY WHILE HE TOOK YOU ON HIMSELF! YOUR GUNSLINGER PINTO SURE FELL FOR THE "REVOLT" ACT WE PUT ON FOR HIS SPECIAL BENEFIT!

AFTER JED CROGAN, HANK BLANE, AND BILL PINTO HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE SHERIFF...

WELL, MA'AM I SOLVED YOUR PROBLEM, BUT I'VE STILL GOT MY OWN TO WORK OUT!

NOT ANY MORE, MR. SAVAGE! MY BROTHER AND I WANT YOU TO BY PASS THE BLOCKED CANYON AND USE OUR LAND AS A DETOUR TO GET BACK ON THE TEXAS TRAIL!

SOON THE HERD IS AGAIN MOVING UP THE TRAIL TO KANSAS, EVERY STEER SAFE...

WE'RE BACK ON THE TEXAS TRAIL AGAIN, AND NOW I KNOW WE'VE GOT A TRAIL-CREW THAT WORKS TOGETHER AS A UNIT ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE! IT GIVES A MAN A KIND OF WARM FEELING TO KNOW HIS MEN WILL BACK ANY PLAY HE MAKES...

DON'T MISS THE EXCITING FOLLOW-UP EPISODE OF MATT SAVAGE-- TRAIL BOSS-- IN A FORTH-COMING ISSUE OF ACTION COMICS!

What's the Difference Between...

A mesa and a butte?

A MESA IS A FLAT-TOPPED, STEEP-SIDED, TABLE-LIKE MOUNTAIN CAPPED WITH A LAYER OF SOFTER, RELATIVELY HORIZONTAL LAYERS OF ROCK. WHEN SUCH A TABLE-TOPPING FEATURE IS LESS THAN ONE SQUARE MILE IN AREA IT IS CALLED A BUTTE...



LIKE MY YARN 'BOUT
THE OLD DAYS ON THE
PLAINS? RECKON
YOU'LL GO FOR THIS
STORY, TOO... ADAM
STRANGE IN...



ADAM STRANGE

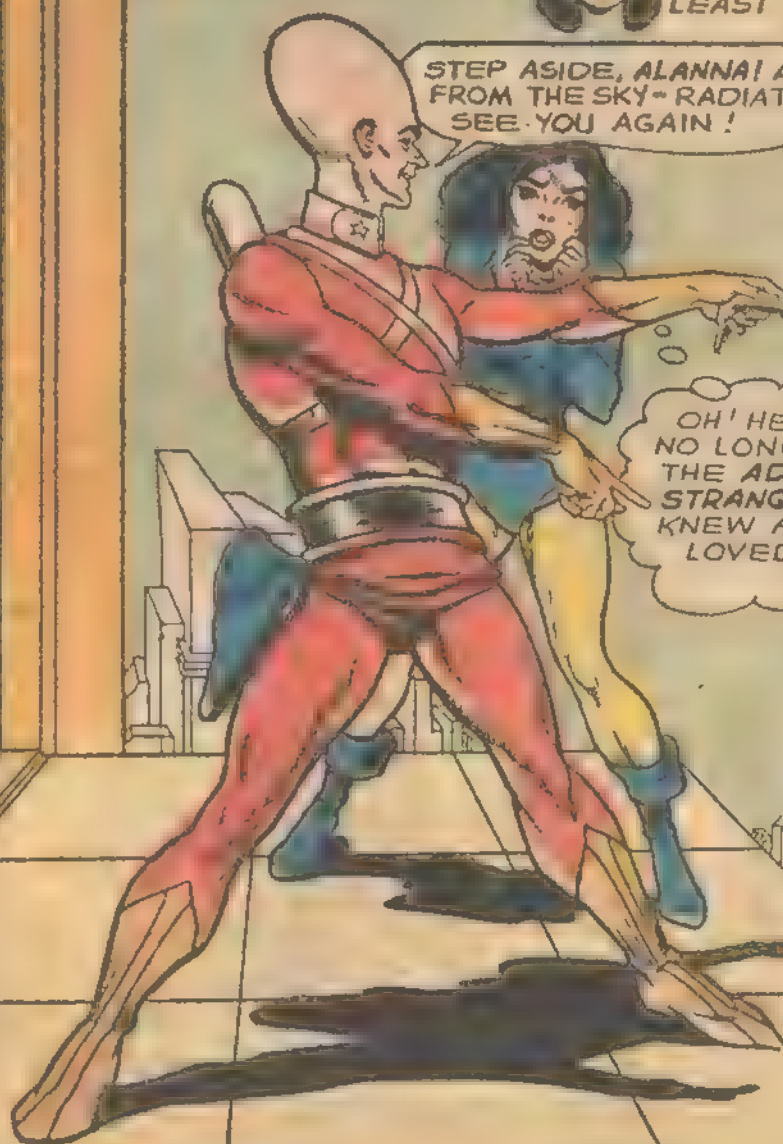
TO ONE MAN ALONE ON EARTH IS
GIVEN THE POWER TO TRAVEL --
BY A TELEPORTATIONAL RAY
CALLED THE ZETA-BEAM --
TO THE PLANET RANN OF THE
STAR-SUN ALPHA CENTAURI.
HERE THIS YOUNG EARTH-
ARCHEOLOGIST, ADAM STRANGE,
SHARES ADVENTURES AND
DANGERS WITH HIS SWEETHEART,
ALANNA OF RANAGAR.

NEVER BEFORE,
HOWEVER, HAS
ADAM TURNED AWAY
FROM THE GIRL HE
LOVES! NEVER
HAS HE SCORNE
HER AS A MERE
WOMAN -- UGLY
AND REPULSIVE TO
HIS SIGHT! THERE
WAS NOTHING
ABOUT ALANNA
THAT WAS OF THE
LEAST CONCERN FOR--

THE
SUPER-BRAIN
OF
ADAM
STRANGE!

STEP ASIDE, ALANNA! AFTER I SAVE YOUR WORLD
FROM THE SKY-RADIATION, I'LL NEVER
SEE YOU AGAIN!

OH! HE IS
NO LONGER
THE ADAM
STRANGE I
KNEW AND
LOVED!

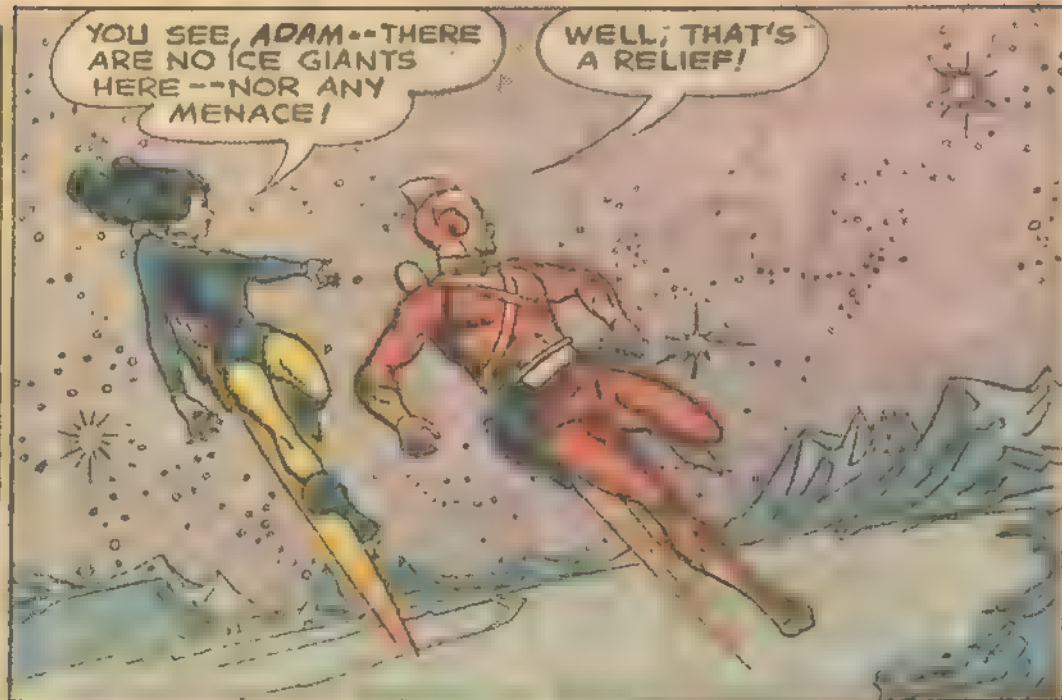


STORY BY
GARDNER
FOX

ART BY
CARME
INFANTINO
&
SID
GREENE

ADAM STRANGE

IN A PREVIOUS STORY, ADAM STRANGE--HAVING FAILED TO CONTACT THE ZETA-BEAM THAT TELEPORTS HIM TO RANN--NEVERTHELESS HAD A "DREAM" OF AN ADVENTURE. ACCORDINGLY, WHEN THE EARTHMAN IS ONCE MORE ON RANN, HE CHECKS WITH HIS INTERPLANETARY SWEETHEART ALANNA WHETHER HIS DREAM HAD ANY BASIS IN FACT...



YOU SEE, ADAM--THERE ARE NO ICE GIANTS HERE--NOR ANY MENACE!

WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF!



SO FAR, EVERY ONE OF MY APPEARANCES HERE SEEMS TO HAVE TRIGGERED OFF ANOTHER MENACE--ALMOST AS IF I WERE A JINX!

NONSENSE, ADAM-- BUT SPEAKING OF YOUR APPEARANCES HERE, FATHER'S WORKED OUT A DEVICE FOR YOU TO CONTROL THE STAY OF YOUR VISITS ON RANN!

IT'S A NULL-ZETA BEAM THAT SUSPENDS THE FADING OUT OF THE ZETA-BEAM RADIATION IN YOUR BODY!

WHY, THAT MEANS-- I'LL BE ABLE TO STAY UP TO A YEAR-- THE LIMIT SET BY THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO MY BODY BY KANJAR RO'S RAY-ROD!*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: AS REVEALED IN STRANGE ADVENTURES #35 "THE PLANET THAT CAME TO A STANDSTILL!"

IN THE GREAT LABORATORIES OF RANACAR CITY, ALANNA'S FATHER--NUCLEAR SCIENTIST SAROATH--EXPLAINS HIS REMARKABLE DISCOVERY...

AND SO, ADAM, WHENEVER IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN TO EARTH I'LL SIMPLY REVERSE THE NULL-ZETA FLOW THAT HOLDS THE ZETA-BEAM RADIATION IN SUSPENSION! IT WILL FADE OUT BY ITSELF AND YOU'LL BE DRAWN BACK TO YOUR HOME PLANET!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? THIS WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME ON RANN...WITH ONLY PERIODIC, SHORT VISITS TO EARTH!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! I'VE CHECKED YOUR DAD'S CALCULATIONS AND THE EXPERIMENT SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH! SO LET'S GET ON WITH IT!



SOON, THE YOUNG EARTHMAN IS BEING BATHED BY THE NULL-ZETA FREQUENCIES...

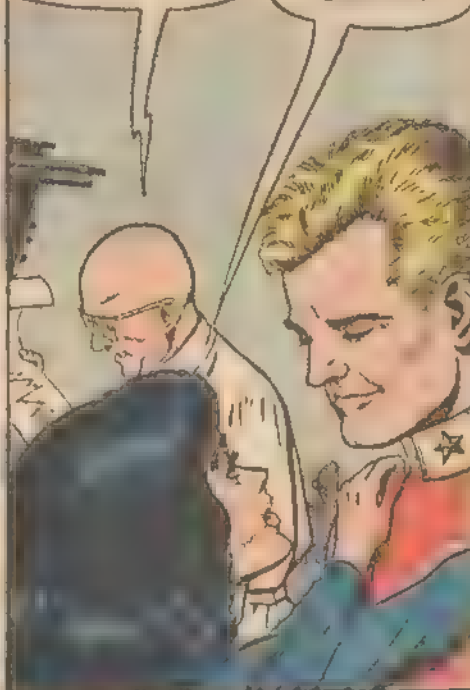
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO TEST THIS OUT ON SOME "GUINEA PIG" FIRST -- BUT THE ONLY ZETA-BEAMED LIFE-FORM ON RANN IS ADAM HIMSELF!



MOMENTS LATER, HE STEPS DOWN AND A SERIES OF TESTS REVEALS THAT...

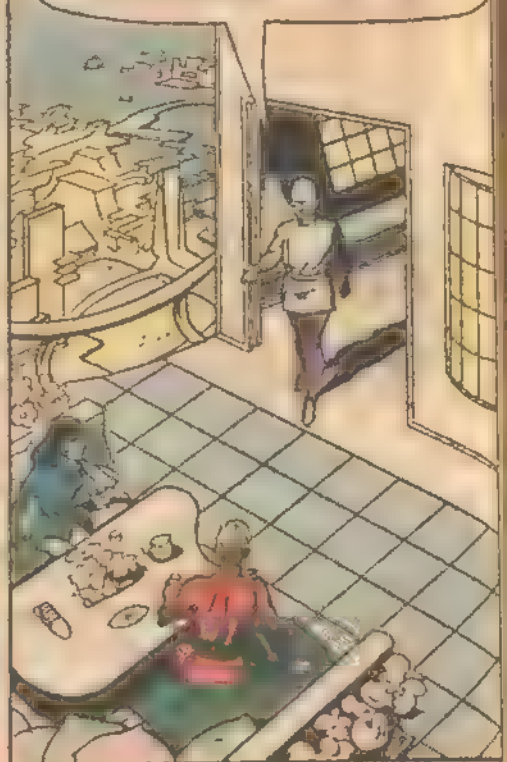
NO TRACE OF THE ORIGINAL ZETA-BEAM RADIATION REMAINS! AND NO ILL-EFFECTS ON YOUR BODY!

I FEEL YOU'RE MINE NOW, ADAM -- MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!



DAY AFTER DAY SLIPS BY WITHOUT INCIDENT! HAS ADAM'S JINX-MENACE COME TO AN END?--

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, ADAM -- BUT IT'S TIME TO MAKE MY USUAL TESTS! INTO THE LABORATORY WITH YOU!



THEN--AS SARDATH EXAMINES THE EARTHMAN, HIS FACE TURNS PALE...

WHAT'S WRONG, SARDATH? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

RATHER THAT-- THAN WHAT I DO. SEE! YOUR HEAD IS GROWING LARGER!

WH--AAT?!



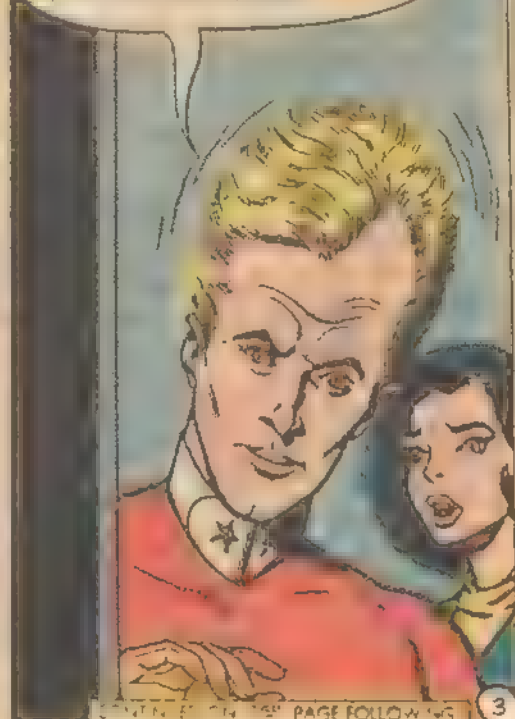
YES, YOUR HEAD IS BIGGER -- AND GETTING BIGGER! OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE! DO SOMETHING, FATHER!

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING-- EXCEPT FOR AN INCREASED MENTAL ALERTNESS! IT'S AS IF-- MY MIND HAS GROWN SHARPER!



AS A DISMAYED ALANNA LEADS HER SWEETHEART TO A MIRROR...

OH!! NOW I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED! SARDATH'S NULL-ZETA RADIATION AFFECTED THE EVOLUTIONARY FACTORS IN MY BODY. MY BRAIN IS EVOLVING SWIFTLY-- TO THAT OF A FUTURE-MAN!



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You already know why it's important to have a high school education. You've probably learned the hard way that it can be a mighty big handicap when you don't have enough education — no matter how hard you work at your job.

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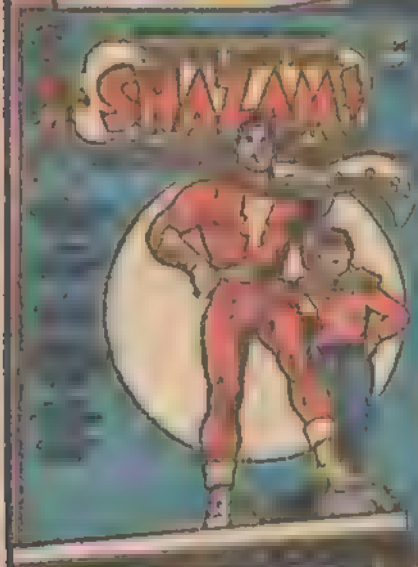
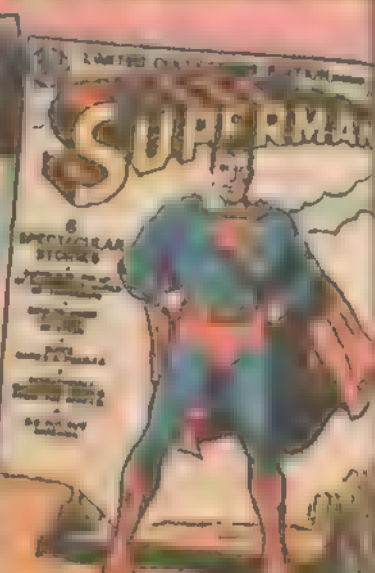
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ADAM STRANGE

I'VE GOT TO DRAW OUT THE RADIATION-- BRING YOU BACK TO NORMAL!

NO! ALL OF A SUDDEN MY MIND IS IN TOUCH WITH THE SECRETS OF ALL NATURE! I CAN UNDERSTAND THINGS NO HUMAN HAS EVER CONCEIVED OF!

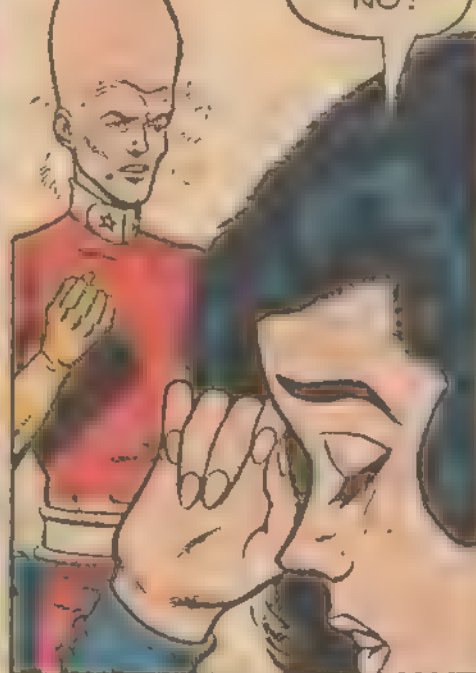
AND STILL THE CHANGE GOES ON, UNTIL...

I AM A MAN EVOLVED 100,000 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE! I AM--HOMO SUPERIOR! FUTURE-MAN! NO LONGER THE ADAM STRANGE YOU KNEW! A-- SUPER-ADAM!

NO-- OHHHH, NO!

ADAM, PLEASE-- YOU MUST RETURN TO YOURSELF-- AT ONCE!

SARDATH, YOU'LL BUILD A COMPUTER MACHINE ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS! INTO IT ON SPECIAL TAPE I WILL FEED THE WISDOM OF THE AGES WHICH MY GREAT BRAIN CAN UNDERSTAND.



FOR HOURS-- DESPITE ALANNA'S TEARFUL PROTESTS--HER FATHER FOLLOWS SUPER-ADAM'S BIDDING...

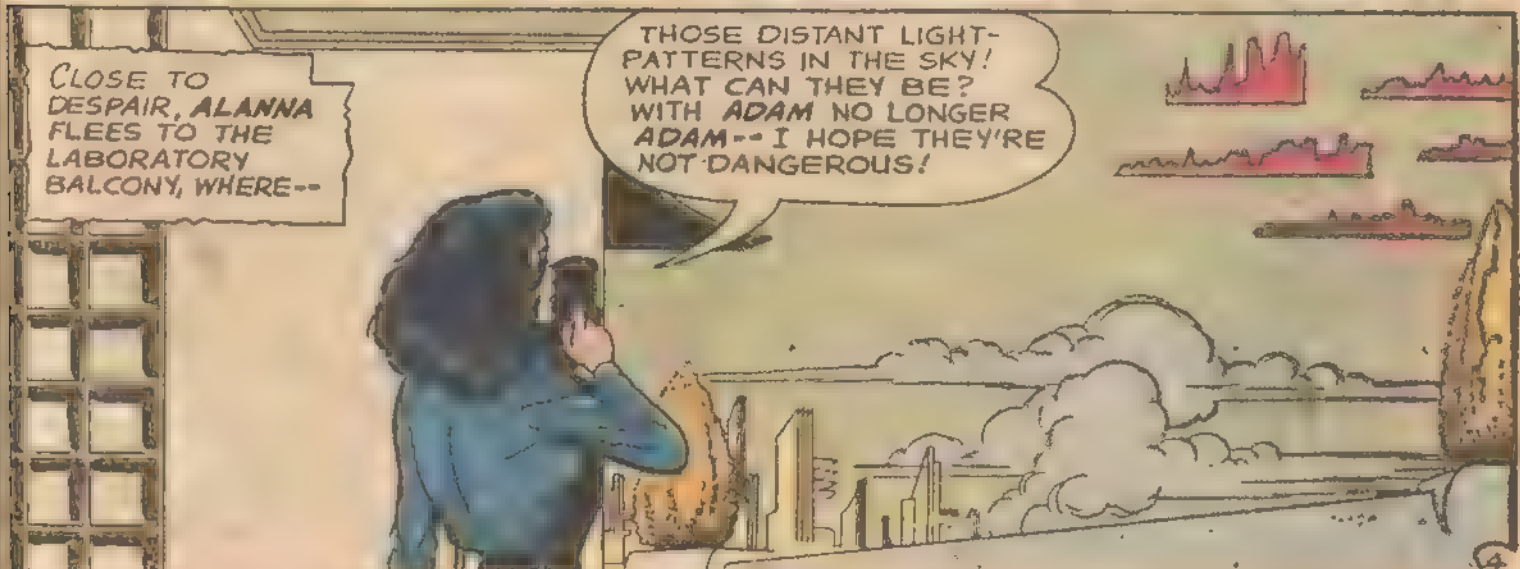
FATHER, THIS ISN'T THE ADAM WE KNOW! HE'S ALMOST A COMPLETE STRANGER-- AND I'M AFRAID THAT--

STOP WORRYING, ALANNA! THIS IS A GREAT SCIENTIFIC OPPORTUNITY! THANKS TO THE SUPER-ADAM STRANGE, OUR CIVILIZATION WILL LEAP AHEAD 100,000 YEARS!

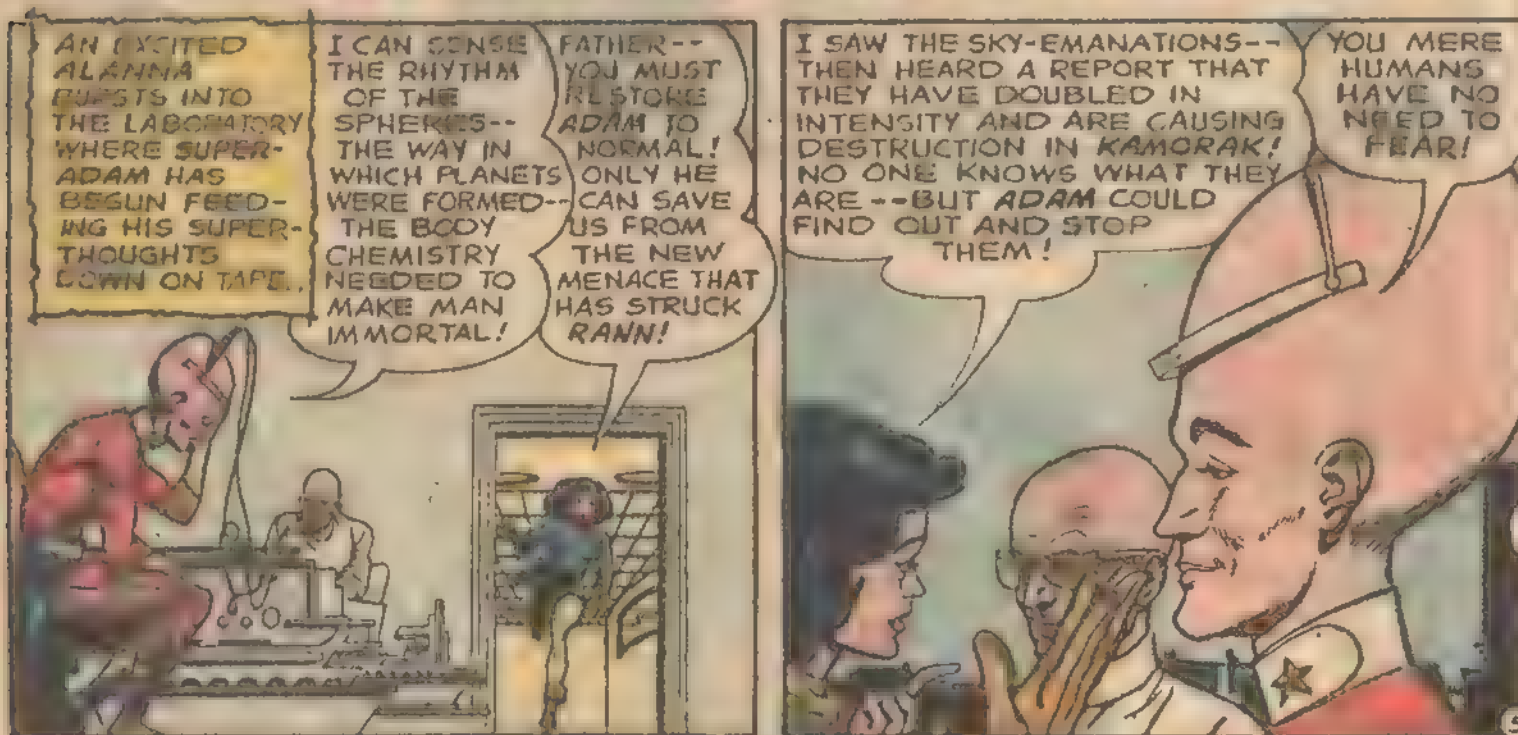
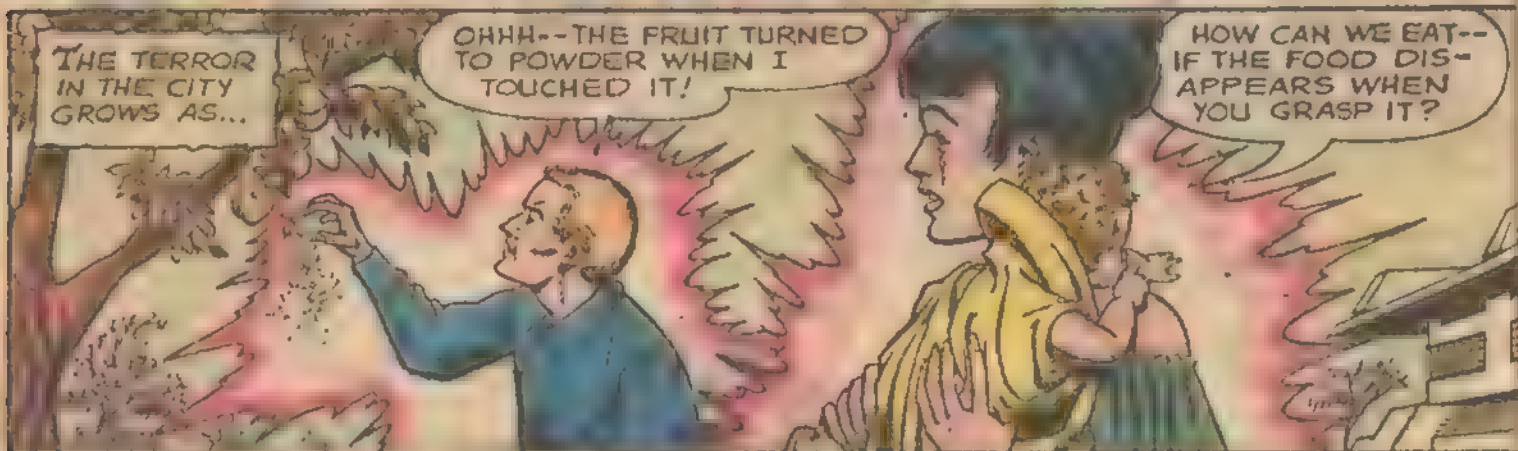
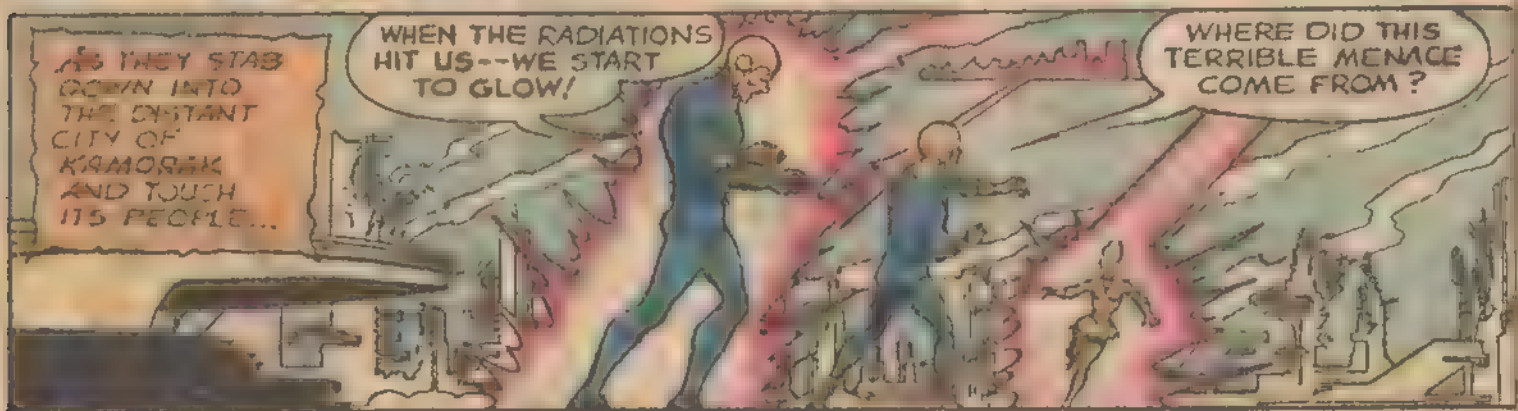
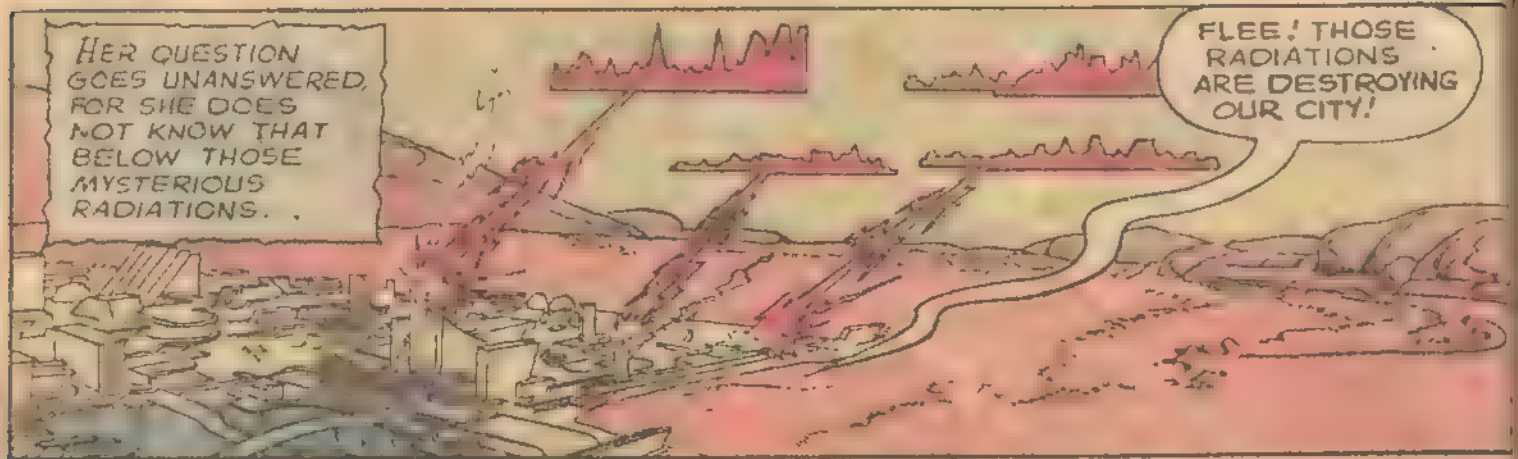


CLOSE TO DESPAIR, ALANNA FLEES TO THE LABORATORY BALCONY, WHERE--

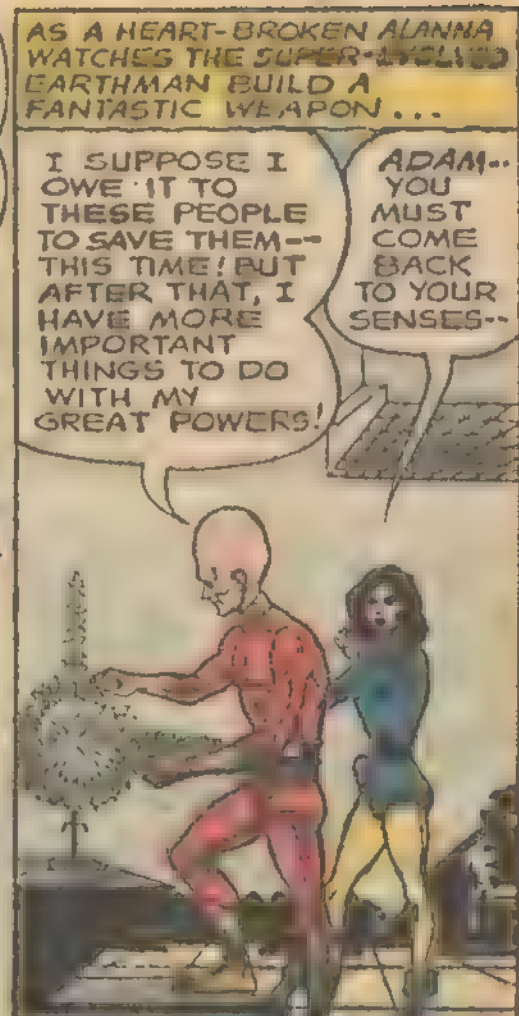
THOSE DISTANT LIGHT-PATTERNS IN THE SKY! WHAT CAN THEY BE? WITH ADAM NO LONGER ADAM-- I HOPE THEY'RE NOT DANGEROUS!



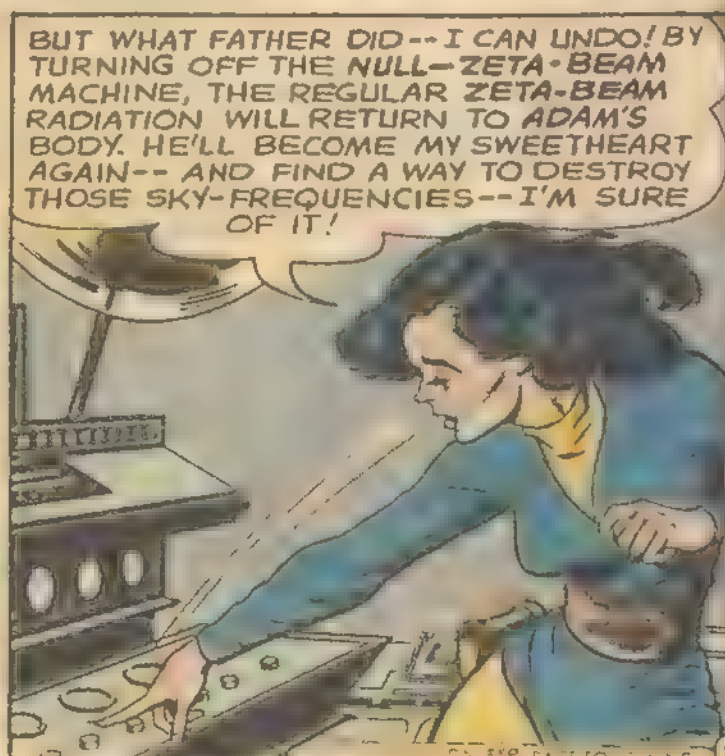
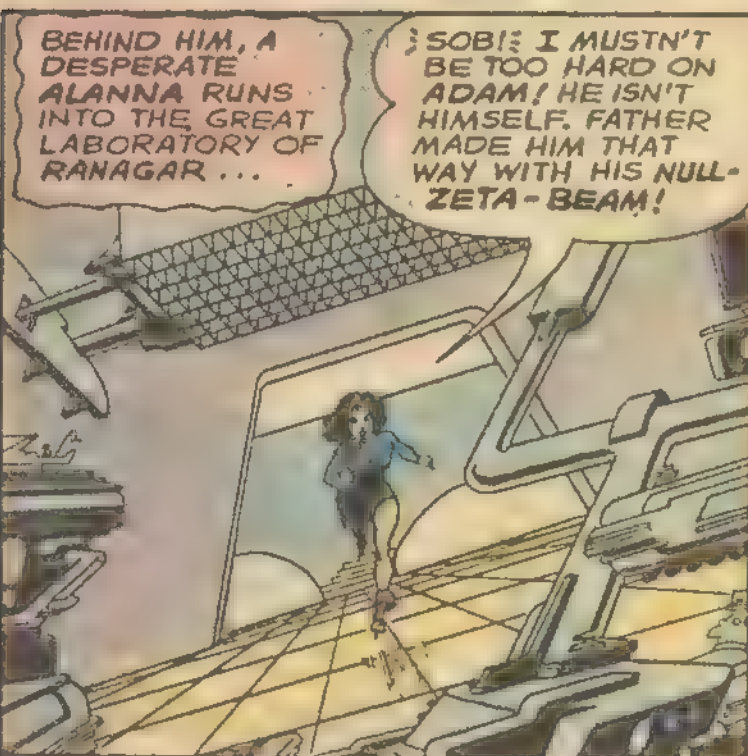
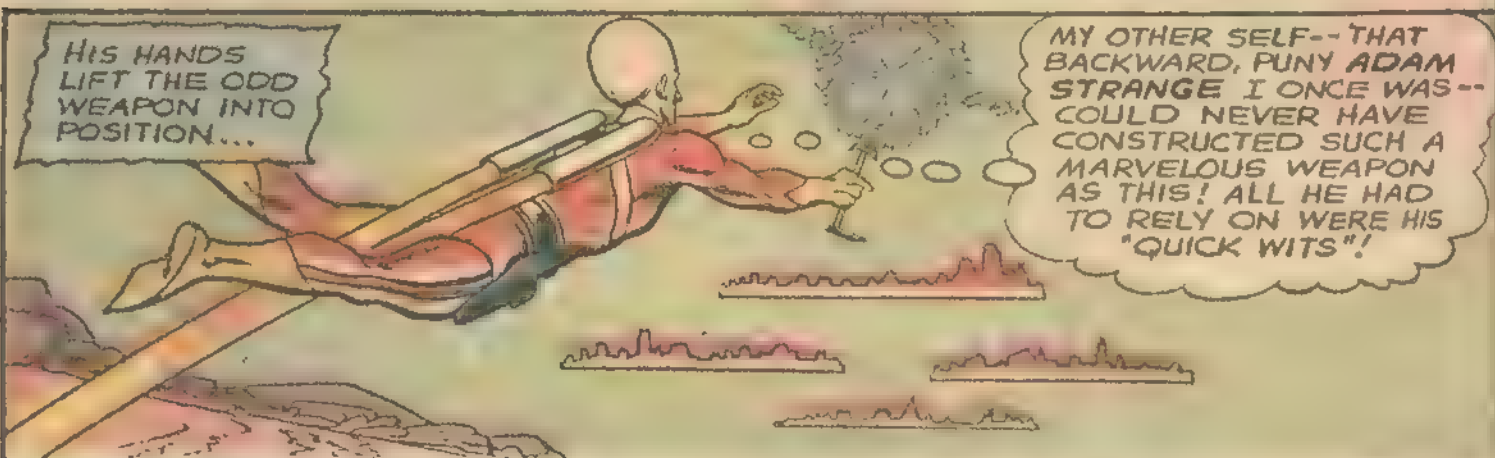
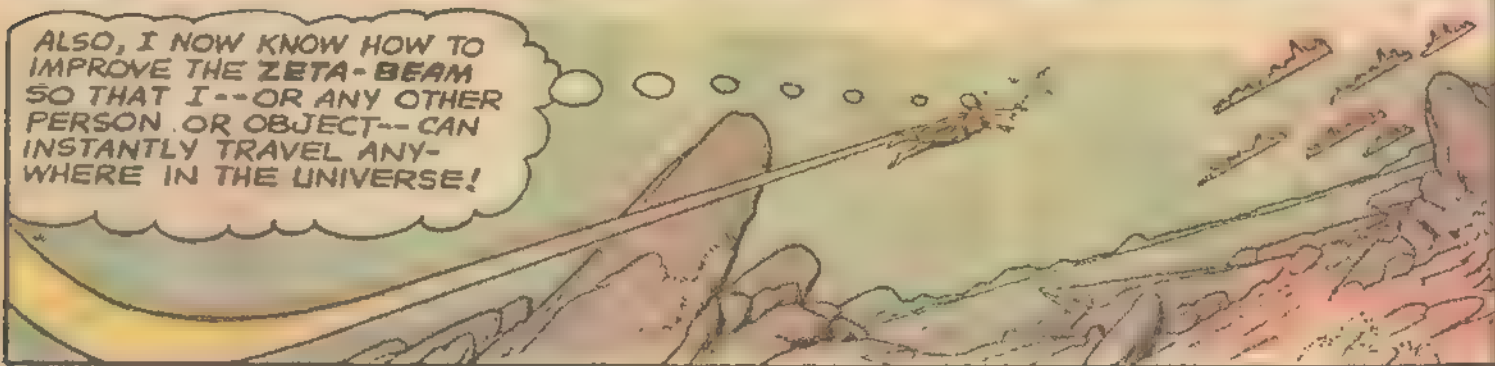
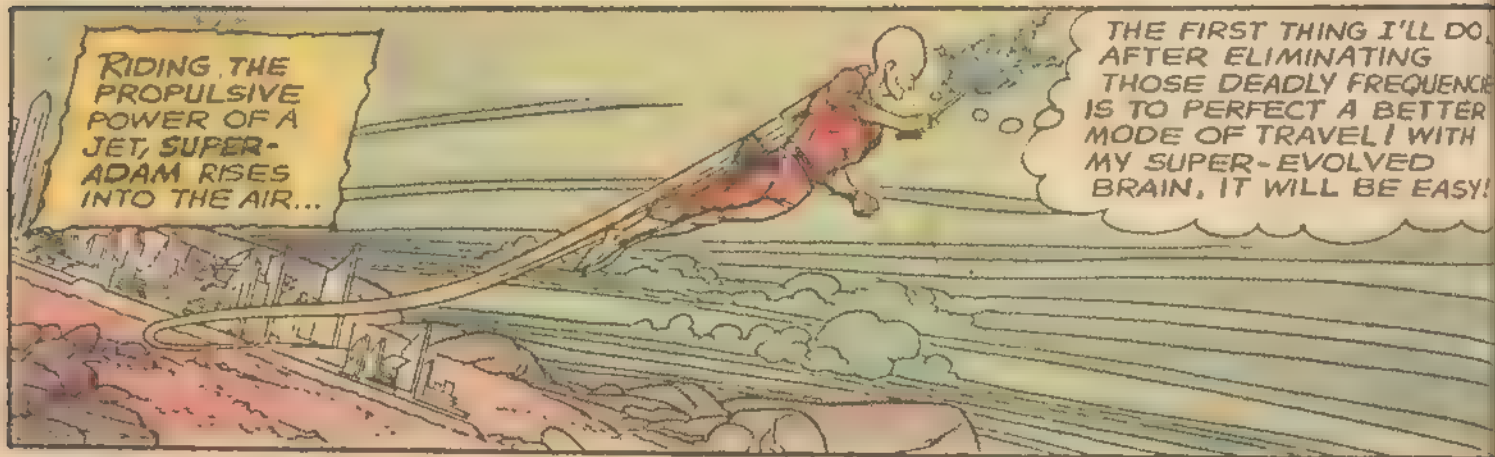
ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



ADAM STRANGE



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



ANY MEDALS Be a major medal or other officer's medal medal recipient of office at any time as a dress up your medals. It will show all of your gold or silver medals on a pin on back.
[No. 107] \$1.99

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[No. 120] 75c

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"MONEY MAKER" is something new. A bank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob... and from the other side, PRESIDENT OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it changes to a \$5.00 bill, or \$10.00. No skit required. Lots of fun and mystery.
[No. 35] ONLY \$1.00

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[Extra Large Ammo] \$1.25

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COMPLETE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR KIT. First time offered. Professional type detective badge and case. Includes professionally styled silver badge of extra heavy metal for use by private and special investigators. PLUS a plastic type carrying case and ID card. All for only \$2.99.
[No. 145] \$2.99

STINK LOADS Push the head out of sight into a chair. After the first puff, it will taste awful and smell worse. Use instead to stop cigarette smokers.
[No. 814] 2 Pkgs. \$1.00

VAMPIRE BLOOD. Unlike you're really bleed just put a few drops on your skin. At the corner of your mouth and watch the faces of everyone who sees you—fright, horror, sympathy for your apparent suffering or injury. Looks like real blood but it's harmless.
[No. 706] Large Tube \$1.00

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MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies to 999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Gives homework answers. Fast, easy to operate and accurate. 5 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1 1/2".
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SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Use a magic dust in your mouth. Will create a snowstorm in a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel.
[No. 106] 5 pkgs \$1.00

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[No. 816] 75c

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[No. 748] 6 pkgs \$1.99

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Extra Ammo

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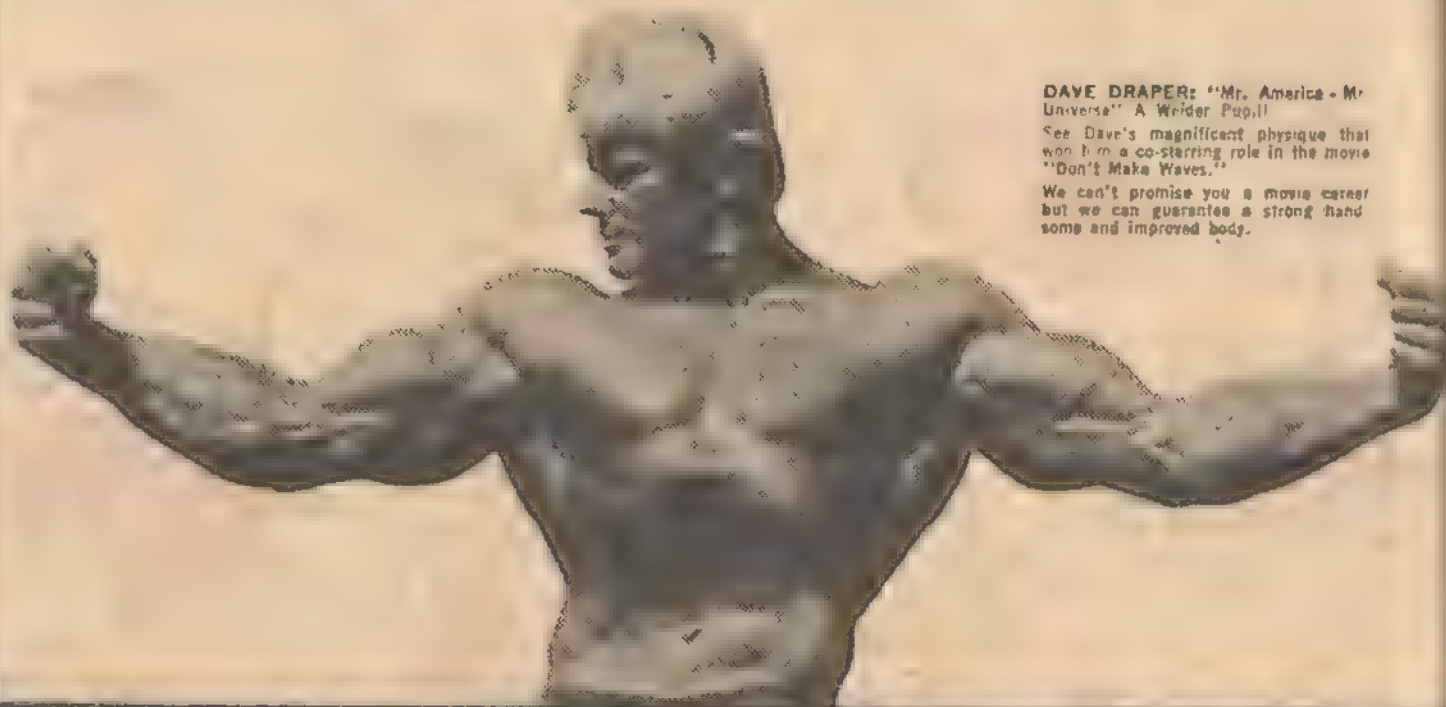
SMELING POWDER. Place a line of this powder on your hand. Blow smoke or step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
[No. 154] 50c Each
\$1.75

MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small bombs, huge thick clouds of color continue to pour out. Warm and thrilling. You and your friends can be used for magic tricks and entertaining, etc.
[No. 817] 4 for \$1.00

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HOT PEPPER GUM. Flavored with the hottest natural hot pepper in the world. A NEW HOT PEPPER! The more the chew the hotter it gets. Not harmful but a kick that'll remember. Package of 50 pieces.
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DAVE DRAPER: "Mr. America - Mr. Universe" A Weider Pupil!

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We can't promise you a movie career but we can guarantee a strong handsome and improved body.

**HE ANSWERED A WEIDER AD—GAINED 3 INCHES ON HIS ARMS
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You, too—just like Dave Draper—can now own a handsome, muscular body—fast! You, too, can now finally follow the exact same instructions this champ did, and in just 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own home, you can begin to slap on 4 inches to your chest and 3 inches to each arm, give yourself lifeguard shoulders, muscularize your waist, get speedy legs, and exercise your entire body. The techniques are simple, there's nothing complicated, just downright enjoyable.

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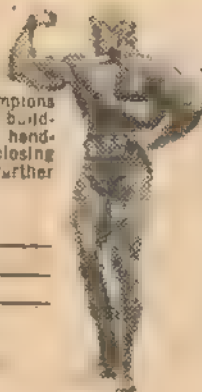
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- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
- ☐ Magnetic Personality



ADAM STRANGE

ANGER AND DETERMINATION
FLARE ON HER PRETTY FACE
AS SHE PASSES DOWN THE
CONTROL BUTTON...

MY ADAM CAN DO ANYTHING
THAT SUPER-ADAM CAN DO!
HE'S THE CHAMPION OF
RANN! NOTHING HAS EVER
STOPPED HIM BEFORE,
AND THOSE DESTRUCTIVE
EMANATIONS WON'T NOW!
THERE -- I DID IT!

IN THE AIR HIGH OVER THE CITY
OF KAMORAK...

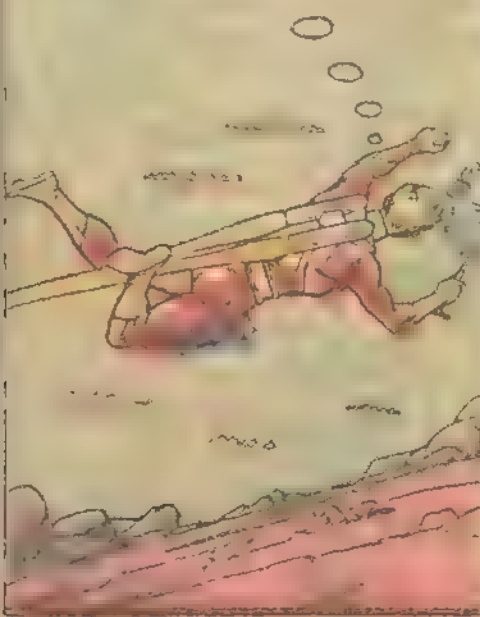
MY HEAD--SHRINKING!
I'M CHANGING BACK--
DEVOLVING INTO MY
FORMER SELF!

AND THIS WEAPON! I VAGUELY
REMEMBER I WAS ABOUT
TO USE IT TO DESTROY THE
SKY-FREQUENCIES! BUT
NOW IT'S A PUZZLE TO ME!
IN MY NORMAL IDENTITY,
MY MIND JUST ISN'T
"EVOLVED" ENOUGH TO
UNDERSTAND IT!



FILLED WITH ANXIETY FOR THE
SAFETY OF THE PLANET HE
HAS COME TO LOVE--BECAUSE
THE SKY-EMANATIONS ARE
MOVING ACROSS RANN--HE
JETS BACK TO RANAGAR...

ODD-- THE SKY-EMANATIONS
SEEM TO HAVE LESSENERD!
THEY APPEAR TO BE ONLY
HALF AS STRONG AS THEY
WERE A FEW MOMENTS
AGO!



WHEN HE LANDS IN THE CAPITAL
CITY...

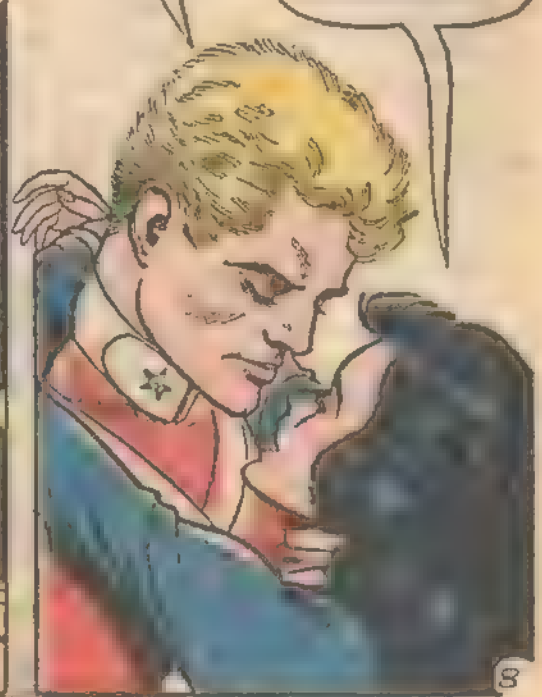
WHO
SHUT OFF THE
NULL-ZETA
RAYS? I DIDN'T
GET A CHANCE
TO USE THIS
SUPER-WEAPON--
AND NOW I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO WORK
IT!

I TURNED
OFF
FATHER'S
MACHINE,
ADAM!
AND --
OH, IT'S
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU BACK
AGAIN!



BUT, HONEY--DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'VE DONE?
AS A SUPER-
ADAM I COULD
HAVE EASILY
DESTROYED
THOSE DANGEROUS
FREQUENCIES!
BUT NOW--

YOU'VE GOT
TO DO IT
AS YOUR
REAL SELF--
AS YOU
WOULD
HAVE
DONE IF
YOU'D
NEVER
UNDERGONE
THAT
EXPERIMENT!

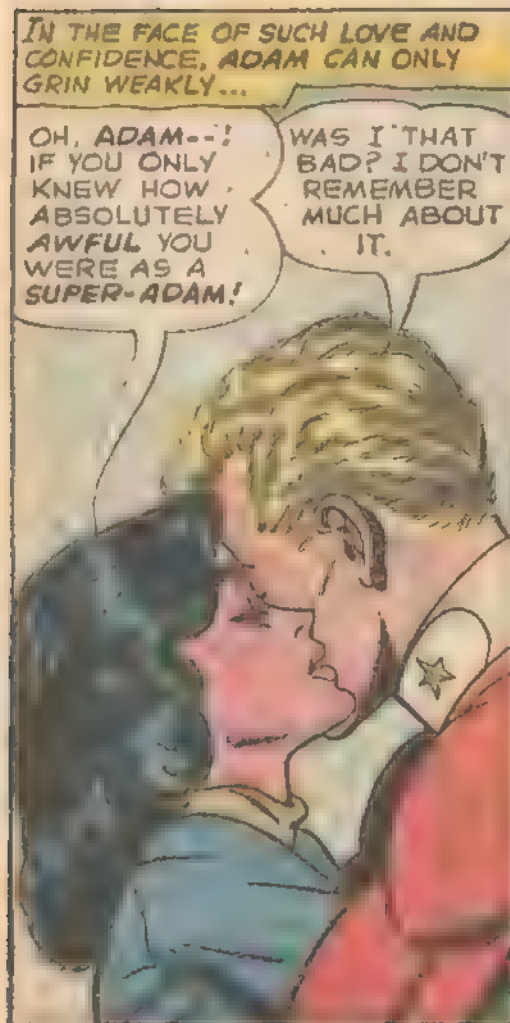


ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

IN THE FACE OF SUCH LOVE AND CONFIDENCE, ADAM CAN ONLY GRIN WEAKLY...

OH, ADAM--! IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW ABSOLUTELY AWFUL YOU WERE AS A SUPER-ADAM!

WAS I THAT BAD? I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT.



I WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON-- NOT REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I SAID AND DID--

I HATE TO BREAK IN ON THIS "KISS AND MAKE UP SCENE"--



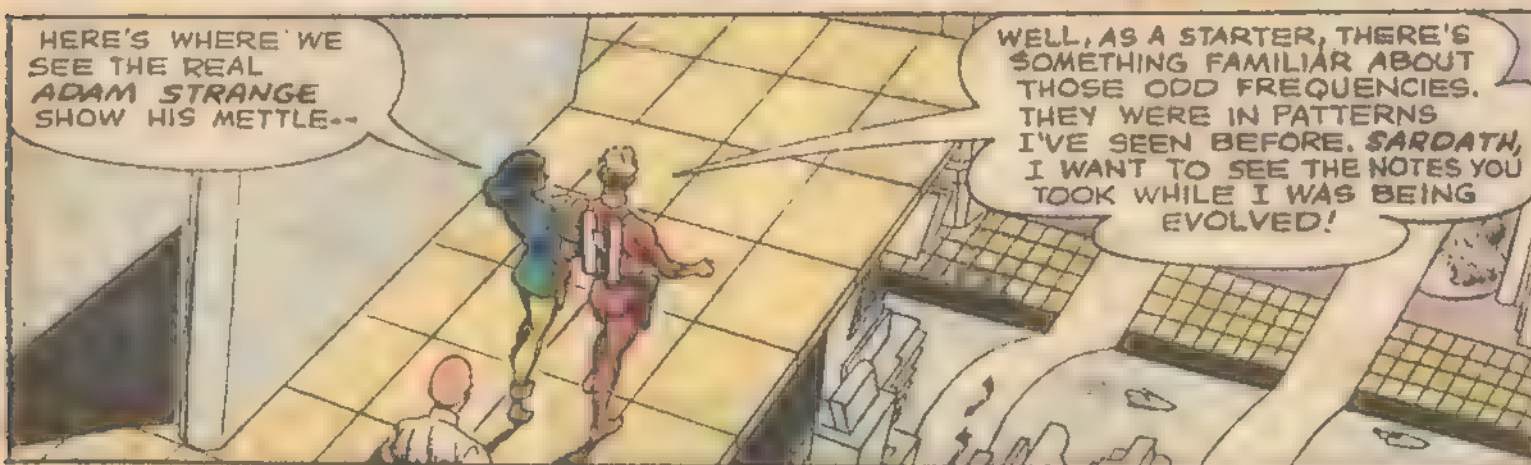
-- BUT THE EMANATIONS ARE MOVING CLOSER TO RANAGAR BY THE MOMENT!

OF COURSE! WE HAVE TO STOP THEM-- OR THEY'LL TURN THE PEOPLE INTO HELPLESS, GLOWING CREATURES!



HERE'S WHERE WE SEE THE REAL ADAM STRANGE SHOW HIS METTLE--

WELL, AS A STARTER, THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THOSE ODD FREQUENCIES. THEY WERE IN PATTERNS I'VE SEEN BEFORE. SARDATH, I WANT TO SEE THE NOTES YOU TOOK WHILE I WAS BEING EVOLVED!

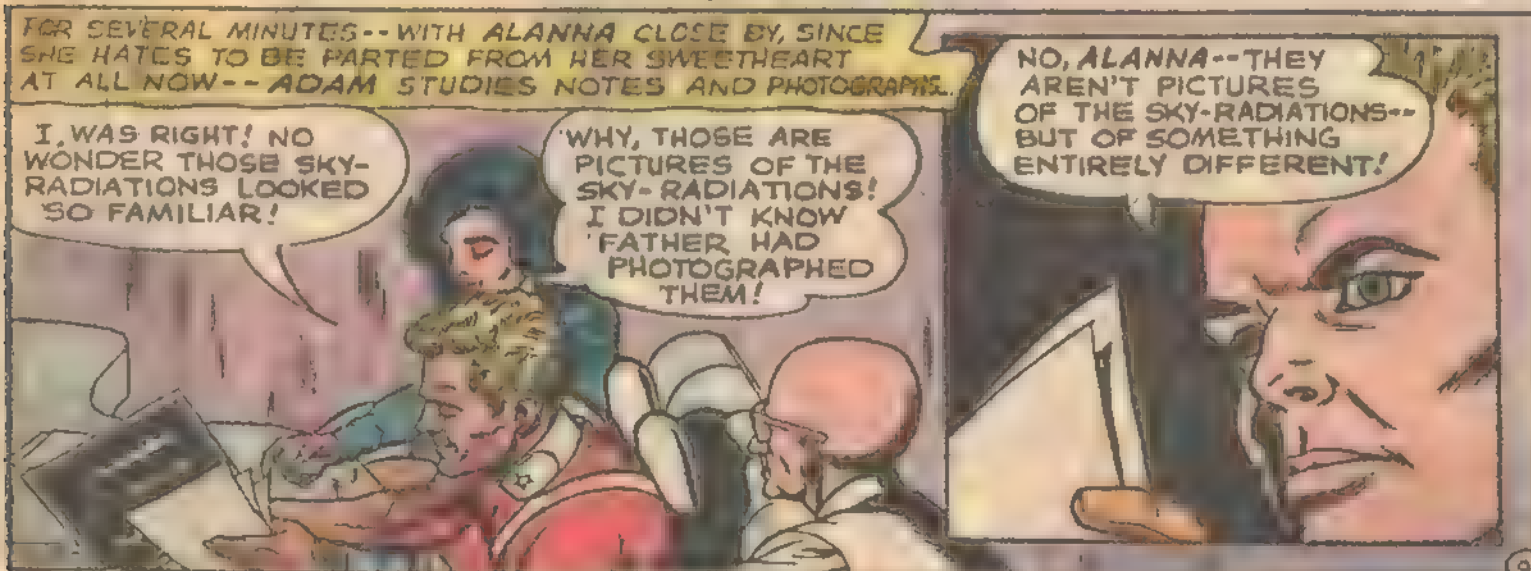


FOR SEVERAL MINUTES-- WITH ALANNA CLOSE BY, SINCE SHE HATES TO BE PARTED FROM HER SWEETHEART AT ALL NOW-- ADAM STUDIES NOTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

I WAS RIGHT! NO WONDER THOSE SKY-RADIATIONS LOOKED SO FAMILIAR!

WHY, THOSE ARE PICTURES OF THE SKY-RADIATIONS! I DIDN'T KNOW FATHER HAD PHOTOGRAPHED THEM!

NO, ALANNA-- THEY AREN'T PICTURES OF THE SKY-RADIATIONS-- BUT OF SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT!



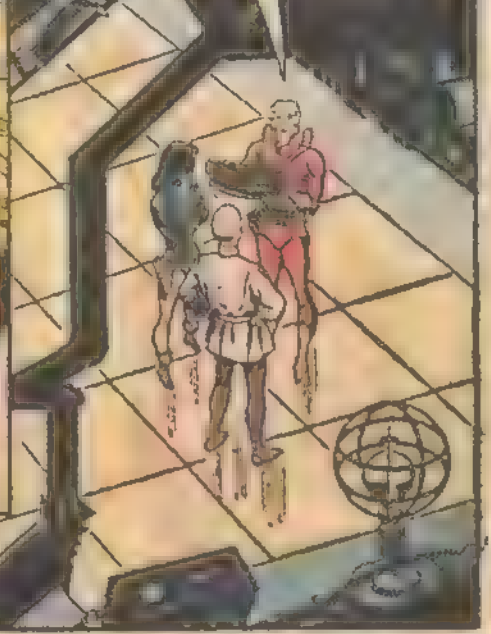
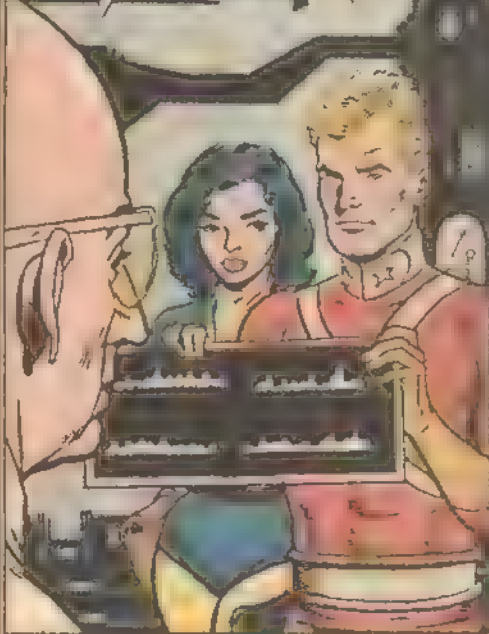
ADAM STRANGE

THESE ARE THE PICTURES OF MY **BRAIN-WAVES** --RECORDED BY **SARDATH** ON FILM WHEN I BECAME A **SUPER-ADAM**!

THAT'S RIGHT-- BUT WHY DO THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE THE **SKY-RADIATIONS**?

BECAUSE THE **SKY-FREQUENCIES** WERE THE RESULT OF THE **SUPER-POWERFUL** BRAIN WAVES I GAVE OFF WHEN I WAS DOING MY **SUPER-THINKING**! THOUGHT IS ELECTRICAL IN NATURE. MY THOUGHTS WERE SO POWERFUL THEY CAUSED AN ELECTRICAL PHENOMENON TO OCCUR!

REMEMBER, THOSE **SKY-RADIATIONS** DIDN'T APPEAR BEFORE I BECAME A **SUPER-ADAM**--ONLY IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD! THEN **ALANNA** AS GOOD AS TOLD US--WHILE I WAS TELEPATHING MY **SUPER-THOUGHTS** INTO THE **COMPUTER**--THAT THEY HAD DOUBLED IN INTENSITY!



BUT WHEN I CHANGED YOU BACK TO NORMAL--HOW COME THE **RADIATIONS** DIDN'T DIS-APPEAR?

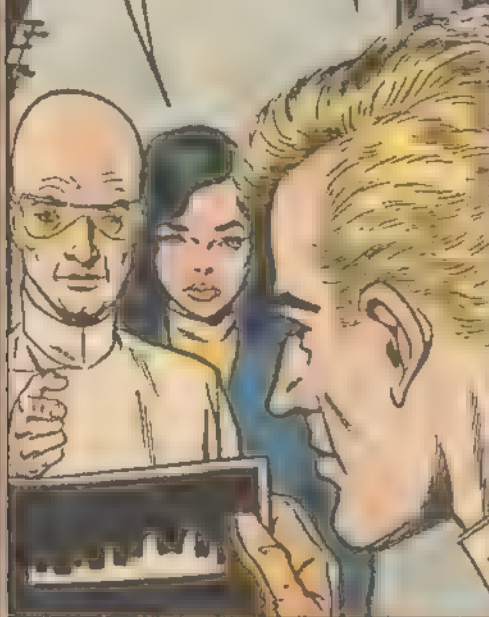
THEY DID--TO A CERTAIN EXTENT! THEY BECAME ONLY **HALF** AS STRONG AS THEY HAD BEEN!

THEN WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMAINING **RADIATIONS**?

THIS **COMPUTER**--WHICH IS STILL OPERATING ON THE **BRAIN-WAVE** POWER I FED IT AS THE **SUPER-ADAM**!

THEN BY DESTROYING THE **COMPUTER**--WE CAN DO AWAY WITH THE **SKY-FREQUENCIES**!

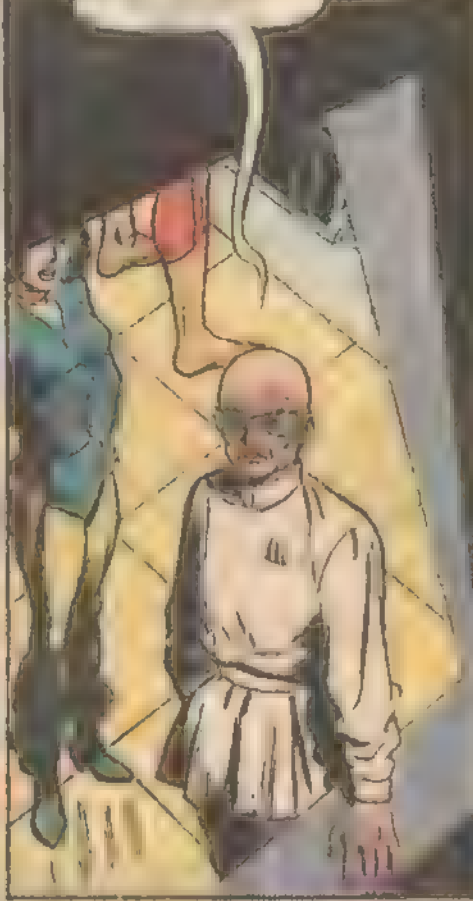
YES--BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO DESTROY IT!



ALL WE NEED DO TO END THOSE RADIATIONS IS STOP THE COMPUTER FROM FUNCTIONING--BY PULLING OUT THE POWER CORD!



THE SKY-RADIATIONS HAVE FADED AWAY! THE MENACE TO RANN IS OVER!



YOU DID IT, HONEY-- JUST AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!

HOW IRONIC-- THAT WITH ALL THE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF A SUPER-BEING AT OUR FINGERTIPS-- WE DARE NOT USE IT FOR FEAR OF DESTROYING OURSELVES!



IT'S IRONIC TOO--THAT THIS TIME I WAS GUILTY OF CAUSING THE "MENACE" TO RANN!

WELL, FATHER AND I WERE GUILTY ON ONE OCCASION* TOO, ADAM-- SO DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY!



FATHER'S NULL-ZETA-BEAM EXPERIMENT WAS A FAILURE-- BUT WE'LL KEEP ON TRYING--

FUNNY -- I SOLVED THAT PROBLEM AS A SUPER-ADAM BUT NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW I DID IT!



THE YOUNG SWEETHEARTS JET SKYWARD --TO HELP IN THE REBUILDING OF KAMORAK AND TO CARE FOR THE DISASTER VICTIMS...

I'D RATHER SEE YOU EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, ADAM-- THAN ALL THE TIME THE WAY YOU WERE AS A SUPER-BEING. IF THAT'S ANY CONSOLATION!

IT CERTAINLY IS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT I REALLY WAS A "JINX" THIS TIME!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE ACTION COMICS # 437, "RIDDLE OF THE RUNAWAY ROCKETS!"

ADAM STRANGE

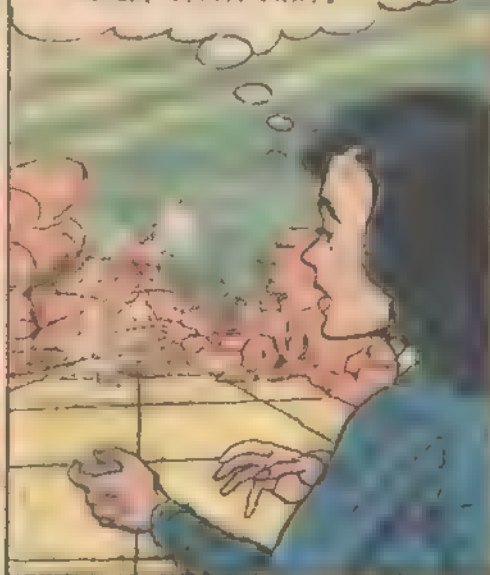
WHILE ASSISTING IN THE REHABILITATION OF PARTIALLY DESTROYED KAMORAK, ADAM BECOMES INTERESTED IN AN ODDLY STREAKED STONE...

WHAT AN ODD ROCK! THE SKY-RADIATION STREAKED IT-- GIVING IT AN UNUSUAL APPEARANCE.



AND THEN, EVEN AS HE CLASPS THE RADIATION-MARKED ROCK...

OHH! THE ZETA-BEAM RADIATION IS REALLY WEARING OFF NOW AND ADAM IS BEING DRAWN BACK TO EARTH! AND-- HE'S TAKING THAT ODD ROCK WITH HIM!



ON EARTH, A SCANT-FRACTION LATER...

SINCE I CAN TRANSPORT INANIMATE OBJECTS BACK AND FORTH WITH ME-- THE ROCK CAME HERE WHEN I DID!



SOME DAYS LATER, ARCHEOLOGIST ADAM STRANGE PLACES THE RANN STONE IN THE MUSEUM FOR WHICH HE DOES FIELD WORK...

I'LL LEAVE IT HERE UNTIL I HAVE THE TIME TO EXAMINE IT MORE CLOSELY AND DETERMINE IF IT'S BEEN AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THOSE RADIATIONS!



ADAM STRANGE DOES NOT KNOW IT-- BUT HE HAS UNWITTINGLY UNLEASHED A MENACE ON HIS NATIVE PLANET!

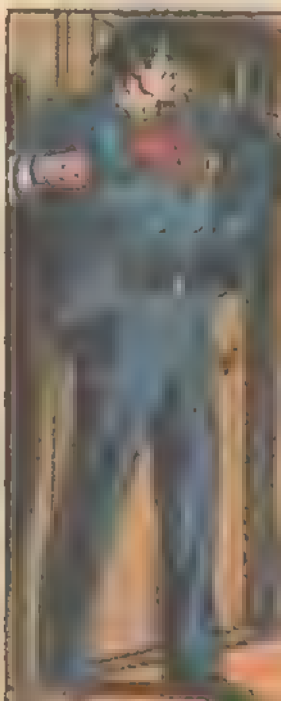
SEE THE FOLLOWING STORY STARRING HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL, FOR THE ASTOUNDING SEQUEL TO THIS STORY!



SOLUTION TO SUPER-PUZZLE #4:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a. BUILT | i. PIE |
| b. CLARK KENT | m. BATMAN |
| c. MAN OF STEEL | n. HUB |
| d. POSITIVE | o. WHITE |
| e. EDGE | p. LINDA |
| f. LANA LANG. | q. WORLD'S FINEST |
| g. PAID | r. PATH |
| h. METROPOLIS | s. OLSEN |
| i. BAIT | t. AUGUST |
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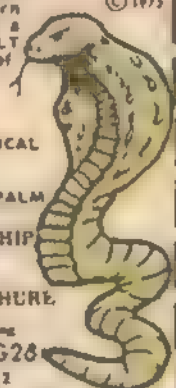
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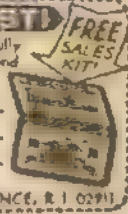
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AND WHAT WAS
THE MENACE I
BROUGHT BACK
FROM RANN?
LET HAWKMAN
SHOW YOU, WITH...

ACTION in the **SKY!**

HAWKMAN

OUR ARROWS--
BURSTING INTO
FLAMES!

I DON'T CARE WHAT
WEAPONS YOU USE TO TRY
AND STOP ME, HAWKMAN!
I'LL DESTROY THEM ALL!

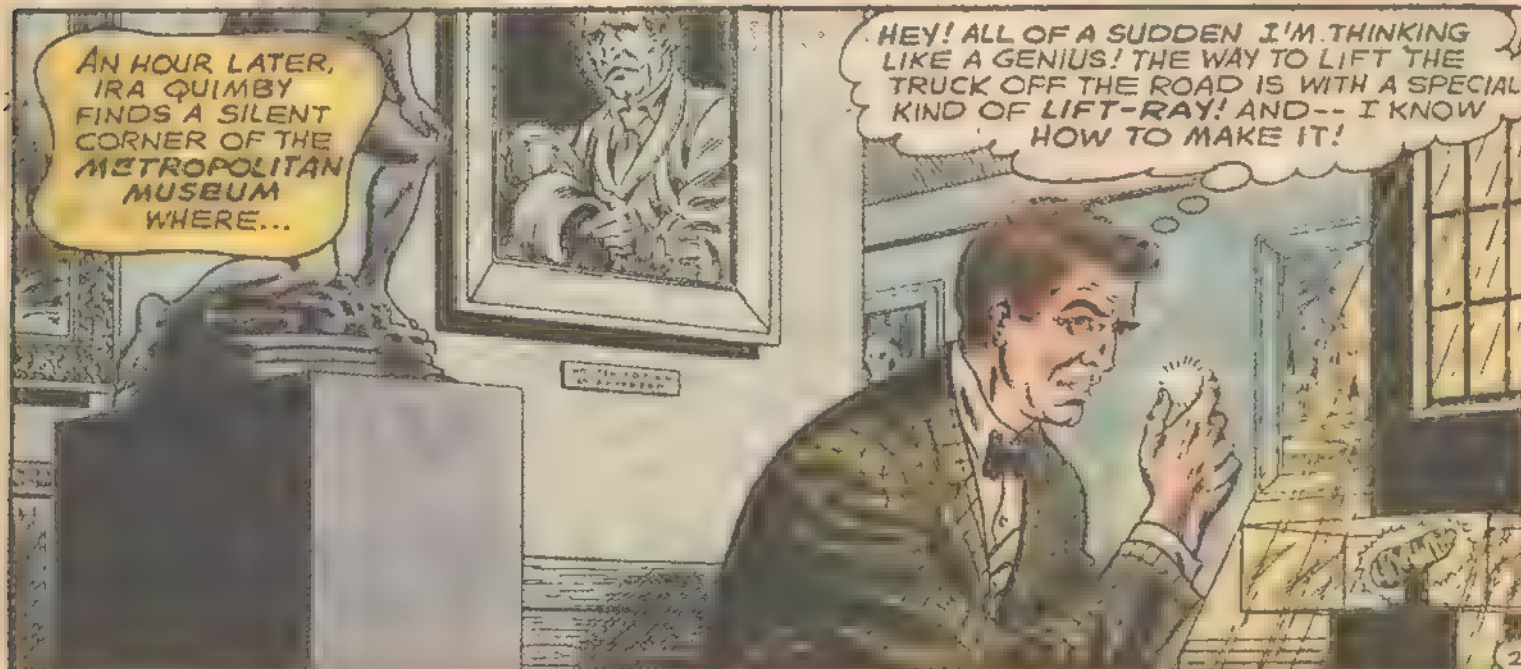
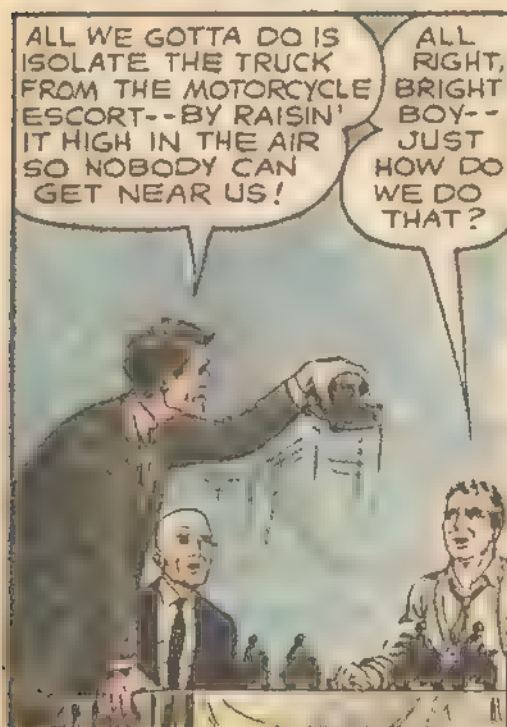
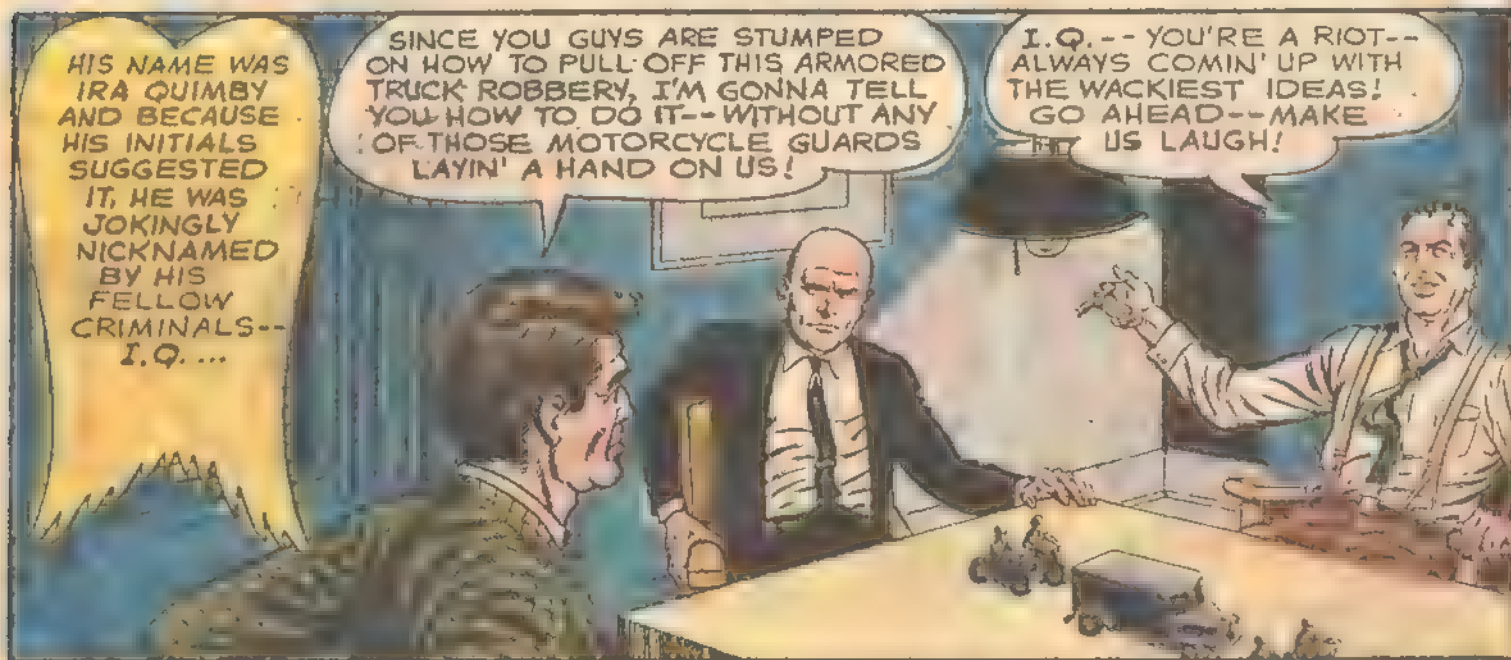
STORY BY
GARDNER
FOX

ART BY
MURPHY
ANDERSON

THE FANTASTIC CRIME-SCHEMES OF PETTY CROOK IRA ("I.Q.") QUIMBY WERE A JOKE IN THE UNDERWORLD CIRCLES IN WHICH HE MOVED. BUT I.Q.'S RATING SUDDENLY SCARED WHEN HE PROVED HIS IDEAS WOULD WORK--DESPITE THE DESPERATE EFFORTS OF THE CRIME-BATTLING HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL TO STOP THEM!

Amazing **THEFTS** OF THE **I.Q. GANG!**

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR.



HAWKMAN

HURRYING HOME TO THE BASEMENT WORKSHOP OF HIS BOARDING HOUSE, HE BUSIES HIMSELF WITH FIELD COILS AND MAGNETIC BLOCKS...

NOW THAT MY RAY DEVICE IS FINISHED, I'LL HAVE TO INVENT SOME WAY FOR THE GANG TO FOLLOW THE ARMORED TRUCK UP INTO THE AIR WHEN I LIFT IT THERE-- LIKE AEROSHOOES! AND I'LL DESIGN SPECIAL UNIFORMS TO GO WITH THEM!



TWO DAYS LATER HE REAPPEARS IN THE CROOKS' HIDEOUT...

HUH? I KNEW I.Q. WAS LIGHT-HEADED-- BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT'D ENABLE HIM TO WALK ON AIR!

SAVE YOUR WISE-CRACKS FOR LATER-- AFTER I SHOW YOU HOW TO LIFT UP THAT ARMORED TRUCK--



--JUST LIKE I'M LIFTIN' EDDIE!

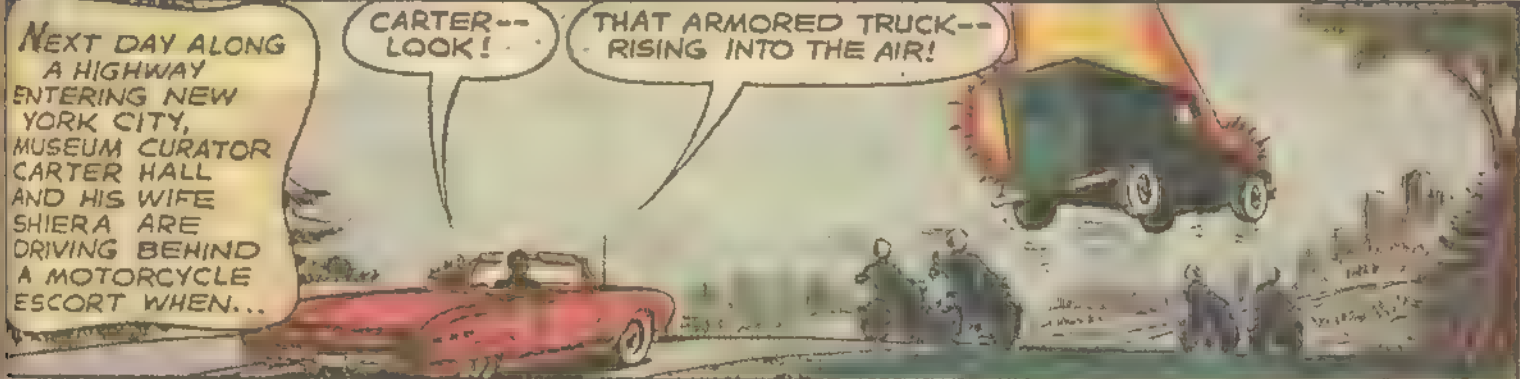
OKAY, OKAY... I'M CONVINCED! GET ME DOWN!



NEXT DAY ALONG A HIGHWAY ENTERING NEW YORK CITY, MUSEUM CURATOR CARTER HALL AND HIS WIFE SHERA ARE DRIVING BEHIND A MOTORCYCLE ESCORT WHEN...

CARTER-- LOOK!

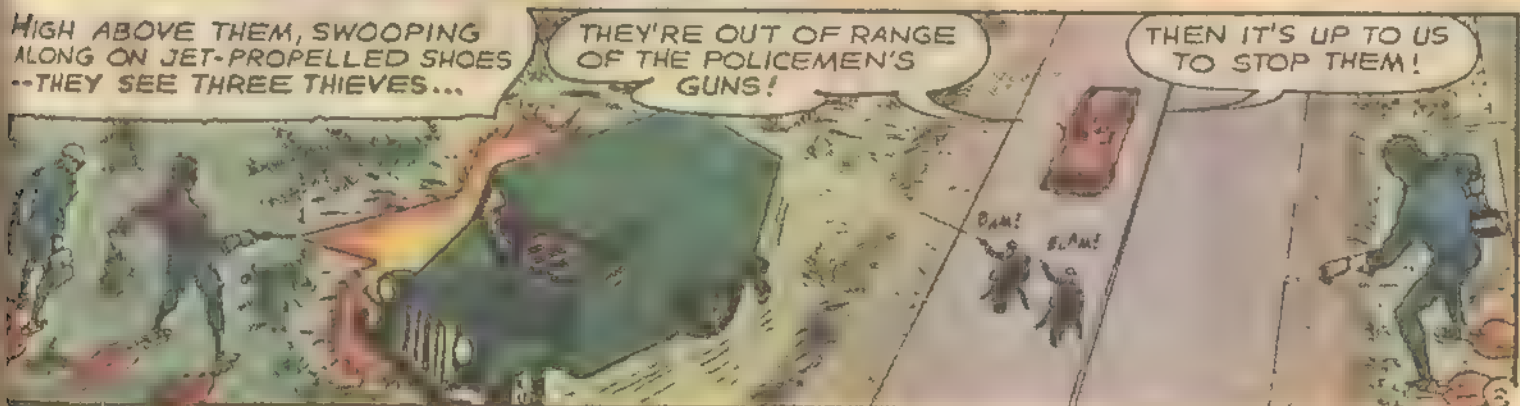
THAT ARMORED TRUCK-- RISING INTO THE AIR!



HIGH ABOVE THEM, SWOOPING ALONG ON JET-PROPELLED SHOES --THEY SEE THREE THIEVES...

THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE OF THE POLICEMEN'S GUNS!

THEN IT'S UP TO US TO STOP THEM!



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

TURNING OFF THE HIGHWAY AND UNDER SOME SHELTERING TREES, THE MUSEUM CURATOR AND HIS WIFE LIFT OUT MEDALLIONS AND PRESS THEM OPEN...

THESE POLICE UNIFORMS ARE MADE OF A SPECIAL THANAGARIAN MATERIAL THAT CAN EXPAND OR CONTRACT ACCORDING TO THE MANNER IN WHICH WE PRESS THE MEDALLION CONTROLS.

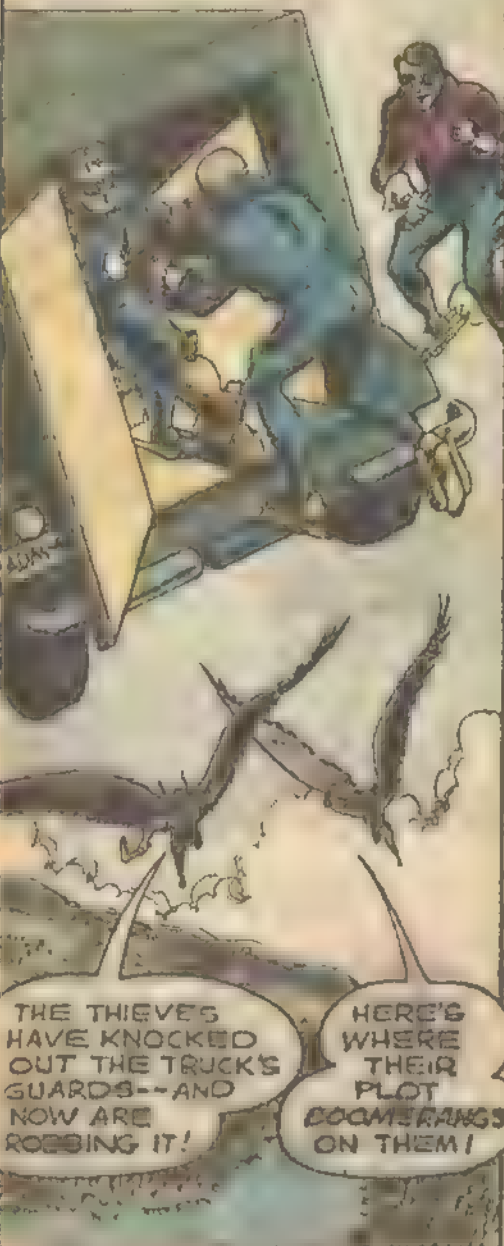
THERE ARE SOME AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANGS IN THE CAR TRUNK-- WHICH WE CAN USE FOR WEAPONS!



WITHIN MOMENTS, A WINGED MAN AND WINGED WOMAN ARE RISING UPWARD TOWARD THE LEVITATED TRUCK! BUT-- WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHAT ARE THESE ODD POLICE COSTUMES? ON EARTH, THEY ARE KNOWN AS **HAWKMAN** AND **HAWKGIRL**-- BUT ON THEIR NATIVE PLANET **THANAGAR** THEY ARE KNOWN AS **KATAR HOL** AND **SHAYERA**, HIS WIFE. THEY ARE **THANAGARIAN** LAW OFFICERS-- WEARING THEIR NATIVE UNIFORMS-- ON EARTH TO STUDY POLICE METHODS...



UPWARD THEY CLIMB, THEIR PINIONS BEATING THE AIR, UNTIL...



THE THIEVES HAVE KNOCKED OUT THE TRUCK'S GUARDS-- AND NOW ARE ROBBING IT!

HERE'S WHERE THEIR PLOT BOOMERANGS ON THEM!

AS A PAIR OF PRIMITIVE BOOMERANG WEAPONS-- THE WINGED WONDERS PREFER TO USE WEAPONS OF THE PAST TO FIGHT EVILS OF THE PRESENT-- IS HURLED AT THE CROOKS.



WATCH OUT! IT'S-- **HAWKMAN** AND **HAWKGIRL**!

HA! THANKS TO MY LIFTING-ROD, THAT BOOMERANG CAN'T TOUCH ME!



HAWKMAN

THEN I.Q. AIMS HIS WEAPON-BEAM AT HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL...

ZOOMING UPWARD... CAN'T HELP MYSELF!

BEAT YOUR WINGS AS FAST AS YOU CAN! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF COUNTER-ACTING THE LIFTING POWERS OF THAT ODD WEAPON HE CARRIES!

UP--UP INTO THE ATMOSPHERE THEY ARE CARRIED UNTIL...

WE'VE COME TO A STOP! BUT WE CAN'T KEEP UP THIS WING-BEATING PACE INDEFINITELY!

KEEP AT IT, HAWK-GIRL! THE BEAM SEEMS TO BE GROWING WEAKER!

BLOWN ALONG BY HIGH-ALTITUDE WINDS, A GREAT CLOUD ENVELOPS THEM, CUTTING OFF THEIR VISION. WHEN THEY FINALLY FLY FREE...

WE'VE LOST TRACK OF THOSE AIR-BANDITS--

MAYBE WE CAN LOCATE THEM BY TRAILING THE JET-PATHS THEY LEFT IN THE AIR!

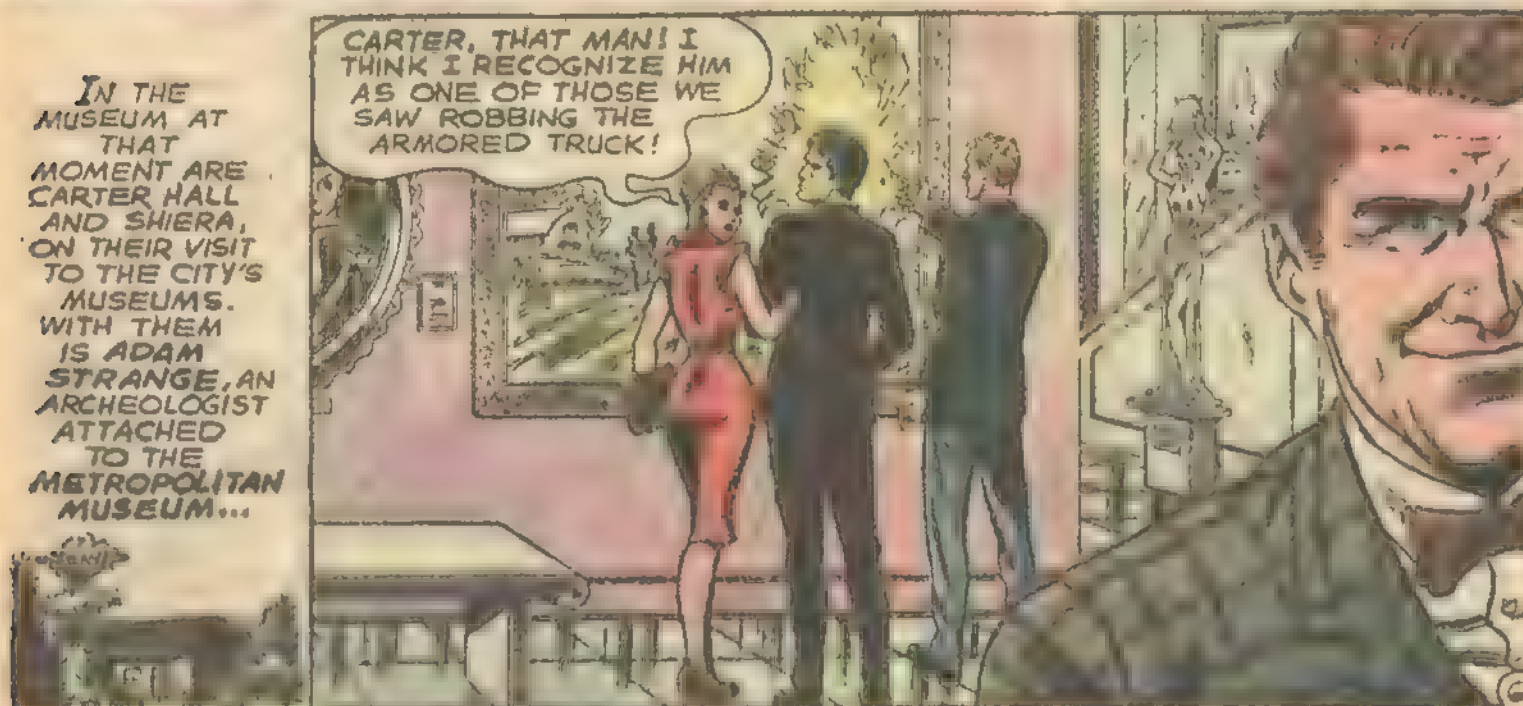
AN HOUR AFTERWARD, FOLLOWING AN INTENSIVE SEARCH...

WE LOST THEIR TRAIL, OFFICERS... BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO STRIKE AGAIN--

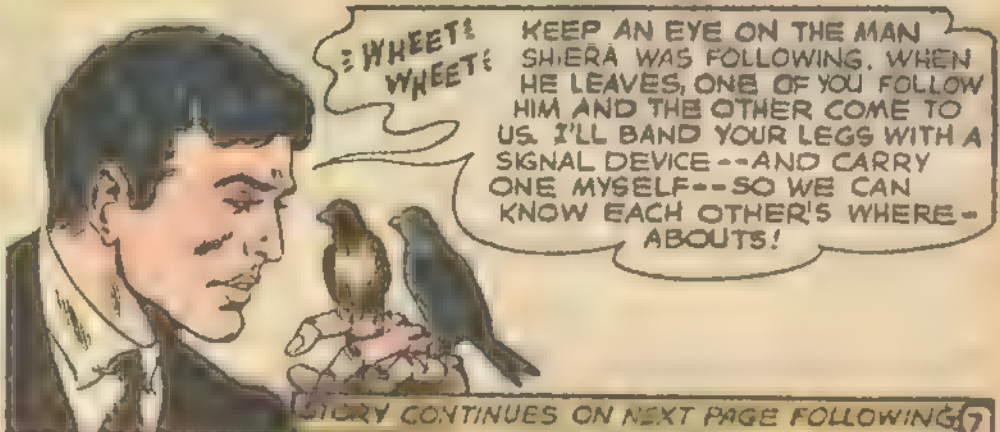
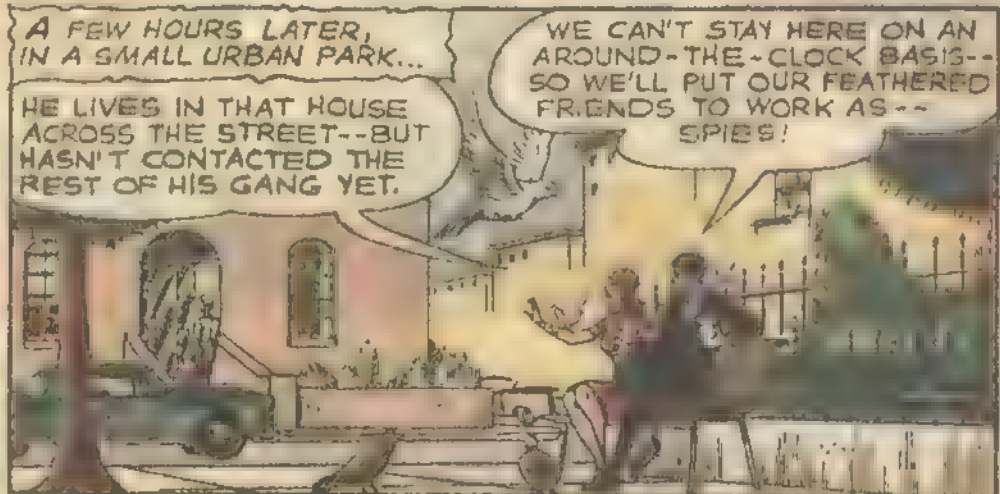
-- AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE AROUND TO NAB THEM!

IT SURE IS GOOD TO SEE YOU TWO HERE! WE'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN POLICE COMMISSIONER GEORGE EMMETT IN MIDWAY CITY!

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



HAWKMAN



BIG NEWS

COMING FROM

WATCH FOR IT!

THE LINE OF

DC

SUPER-STARS

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



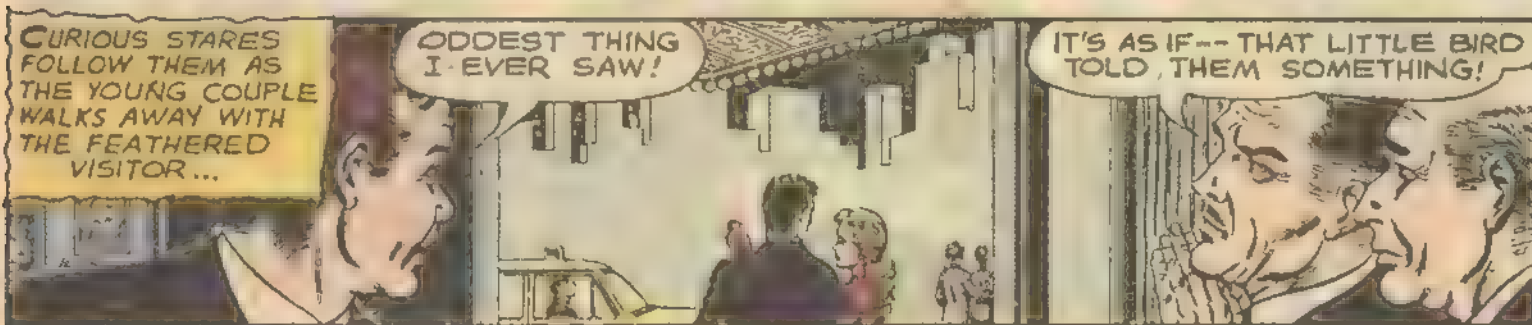
Amazing **THEFTS** OF THE I.Q. GANG! **PART 2**



THAT EVENING, MR. AND MRS. HALL ARE AT A BROADWAY HIT PLAY, AND DURING INTERMISSION...

WHEET
WHEET

EVERYONE'S STARING, CARTER! BUT-- THE BIRD'S TELLING US THAT OUR PREY HAS LEFT HIS HOUSE!



CURIOUS STARES FOLLOW THEM AS THE YOUNG COUPLE WALKS AWAY WITH THE FEATHERED VISITOR...

ODDEST THING I EVER SAW!

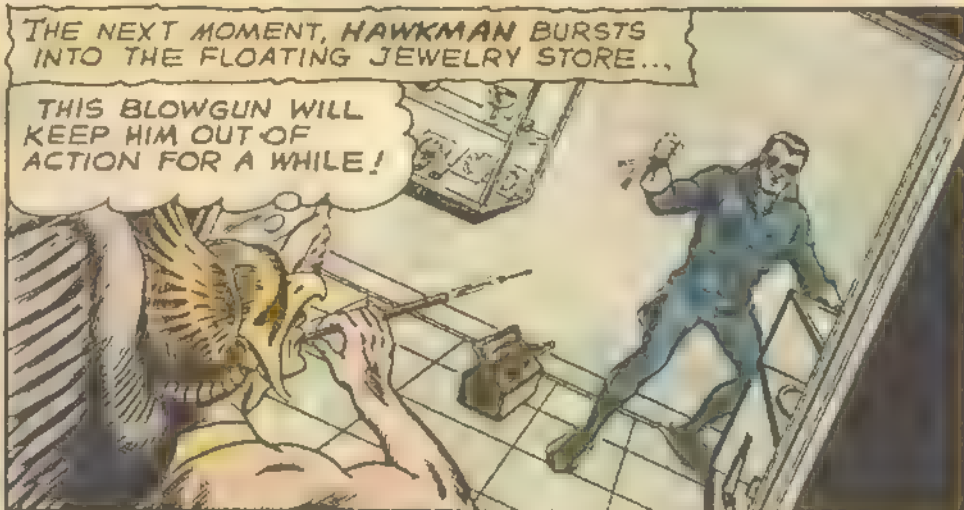
IT'S AS IF-- THAT LITTLE BIRD TOLD THEM SOMETHING!

OUT OF SIGHT OF THE ONLOOKERS, THEY DON THEIR WINGED UNIFORMS AND ARM THEMSELVES. THEN BY FOLLOWING A DIRECTIONAL DEVICE BANNED TO THE LEG OF THE OTHER BIRD, THEY COME UPON...

THOSE CROOKS HAVE LIFTED THAT JEWEL HOUSE INTO THE AIR-- JUST AS THEY DID THE ARMORED TRUCK!

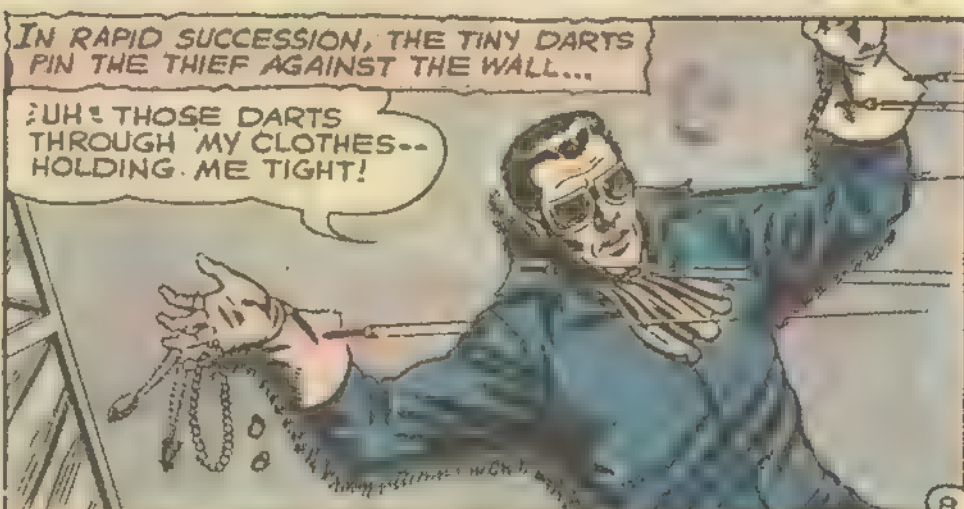


THEY'RE INSIDE-- THEY WON'T SEE US TILL WE MAKE OUR ATTACK!



THE NEXT MOMENT, HAWKMAN BURSTS INTO THE FLOATING JEWELRY STORE...

THIS BLOWGUN WILL KEEP HIM OUT OF ACTION FOR A WHILE!



IN RAPID SUCCESSION, THE TINY DARTS PIN THE THIEF AGAINST THE WALL...

UH-- THOSE DARTS THROUGH MY CLOTHES-- HOLDING ME TIGHT!

HAWKMAN

THE FLYING PURY'S NET SWEEPS OUTWARD, ENVELOPING TWO MORE THIEVES...

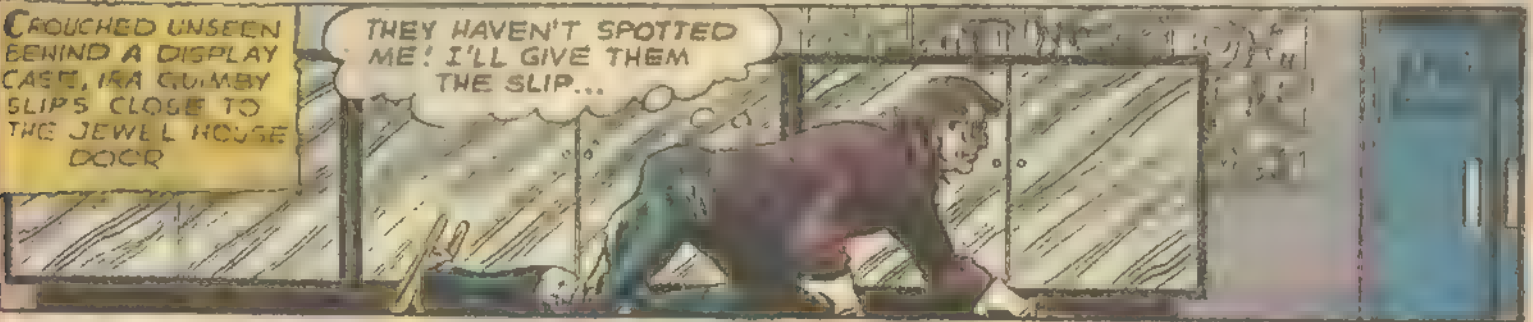


MEANWHILE, HAWKGIRL USES HER CHAIN-MACE IN A DISARMING FASHION...



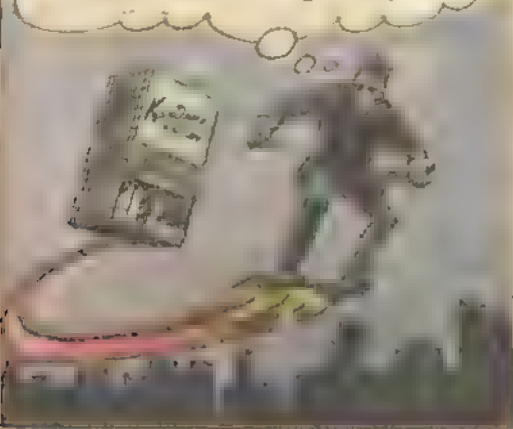
CROUCHED UNSEEN BEHIND A DISPLAY CASE, IRA GUMBY SLIPS CLOSE TO THE JEWEL HOUSE DOOR

THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME! I'LL GIVE THEM THE SLIP...



ON SILENT AEROSHOES HE JETS AWAY FROM THE FLOATING JEWEL HOUSE...

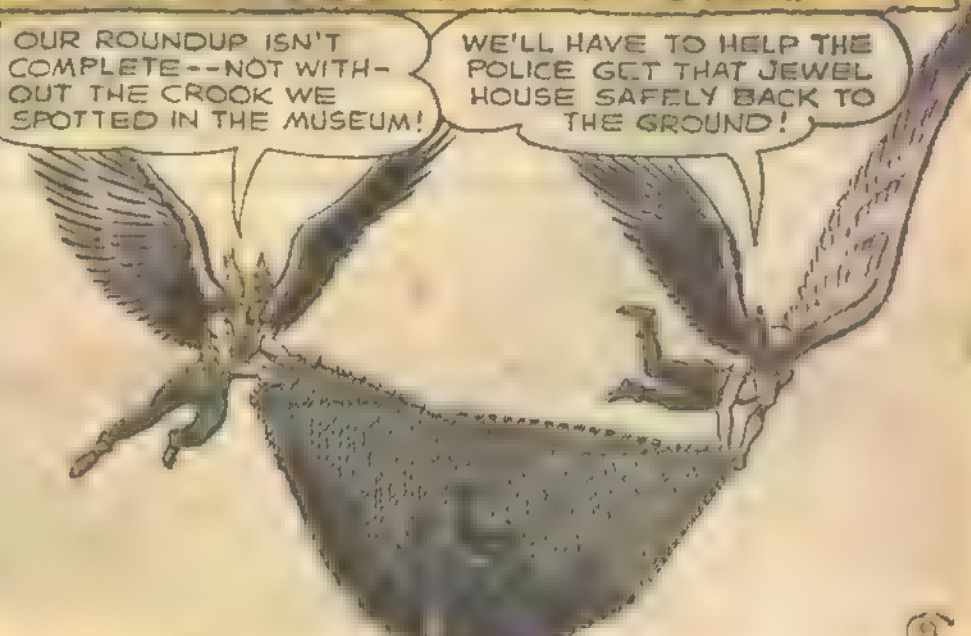
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THOSE WINGED CHARACTERS! I CAN'T HAVE THEM BARGIN' IN ON MY JOBS! HMMM-- I'VE BEEN GIVIN' IT SOME THOUGHT AND-- I KNOW WHAT TO DO!



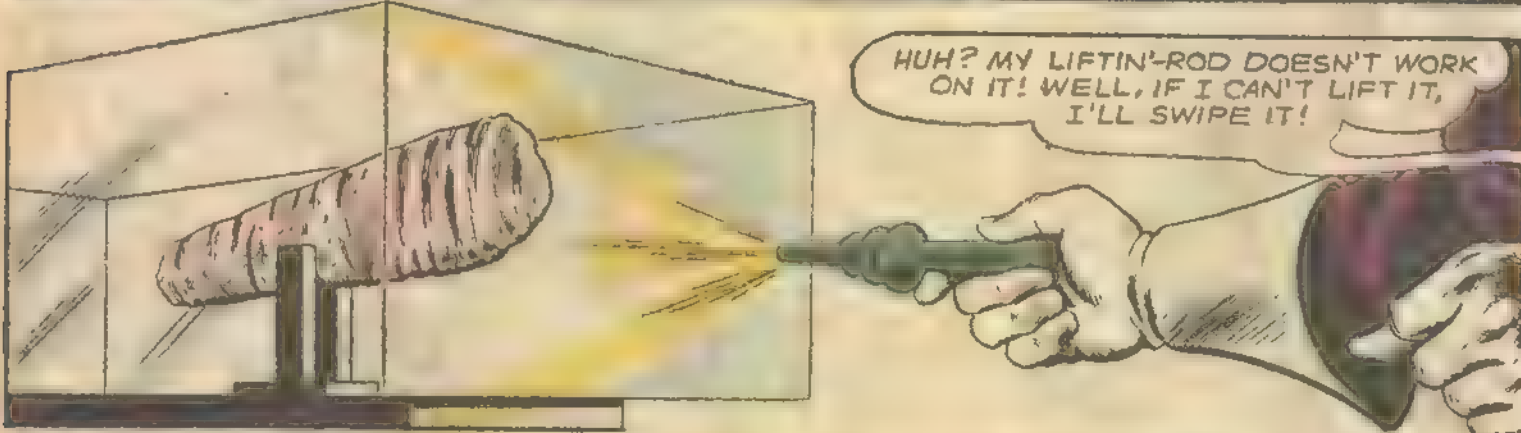
SHORTLY, WITH THEIR PRISONERS SECURE IN THE NET, THE WINGED WONDERS CARRY THEM OFF TO JAIL...

OUR ROUNDUP ISN'T COMPLETE--NOT WITHOUT THE CROOK WE SPOTTED IN THE MUSEUM!

WE'LL HAVE TO HELP THE POLICE GET THAT JEWEL HOUSE SAFELY BACK TO THE GROUND!



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



HAWKMAN

SECONDS AFTERWARD...

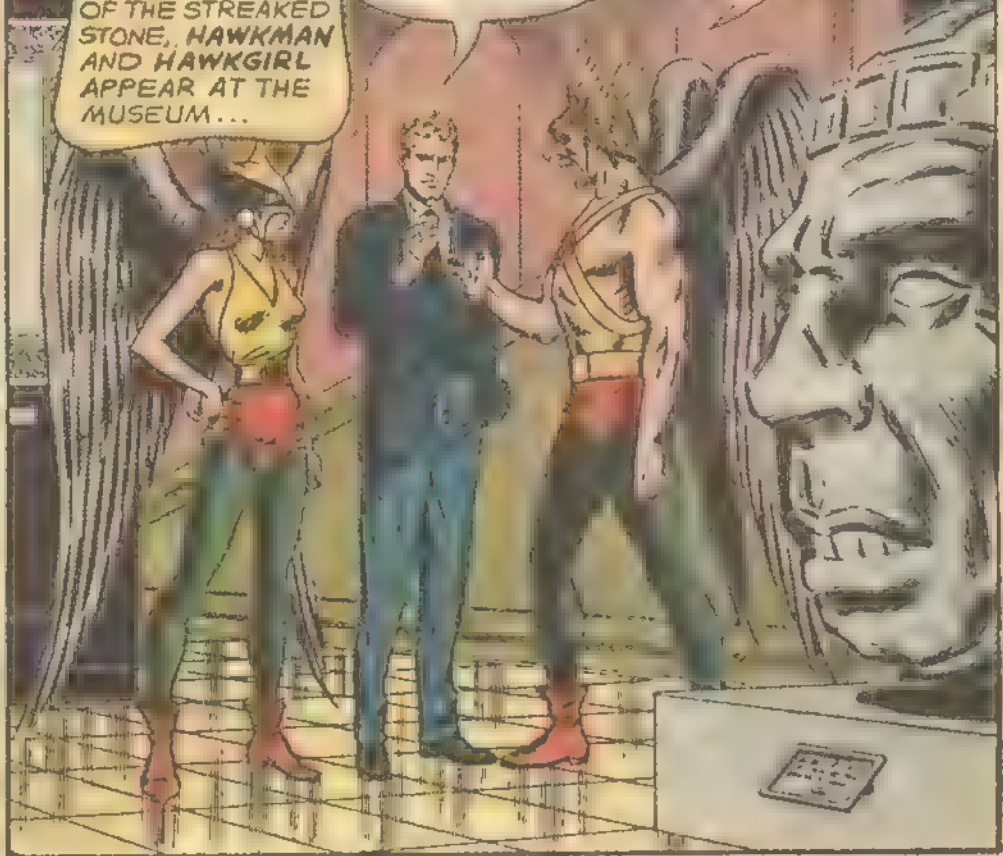
I GOT IT! WHEN I THINK UP SOME NEW INVENTIONS, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPIN' ME AND MY NEW I.Q. GANG!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HEARING A NEWS REPORT OF THE ROBBERY OF THE STREAKED STONE, HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL APPEAR AT THE MUSEUM...

--AND ALL THE THIEF LEFT BEHIND ARE THESE TWO STONE FRAGMENTS.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION MR. STRANGE, I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THEM IN A LABORATORY!



SOON AFTER, WITH THE SPECIAL CONTACT LENSES WHICH ENABLE HIM TO BETTER EXAMINE AN OBJECT, THE THANAGARIAN POLICE OFFICER IS HARD AT WORK...

THIS STONE IS AN UNEARTHLY ONE -- YET DIDN'T LAND HERE AS A METEOR!

THEN HOW DID IT GET HERE? ODD--MY CONTACT LENSES SHOW A FAINT GLOW AROUND EACH OF THEM!



LOOK! WHEN THEY COME CLOSER, THEY GLOW BRIGHTER!

GOOD! WE CAN USE THESE FRAGMENTS TO TRACK DOWN THE LARGER PIECE THAT WAS STOLEN! THE CLOSER WE GET TO IT, THE MORE OUR PIECES WILL GLOW!



IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE BUT--THOSE STREAKS IN THE STONES WERE MADE BY BRAIN-WAVE RADIATIONS!* AND THERE'S STILL AN AFTERMATH OF SUPER-MENTAL POWER IN THEM! UNDER SUNLIGHT THEY YIELD AN AURA OF MENTAL ENERGY THAT STIMULATES THOUGHT!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: AS EXPLAINED IN THE ADAM STRANGE STORY IN THIS ISSUE!

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

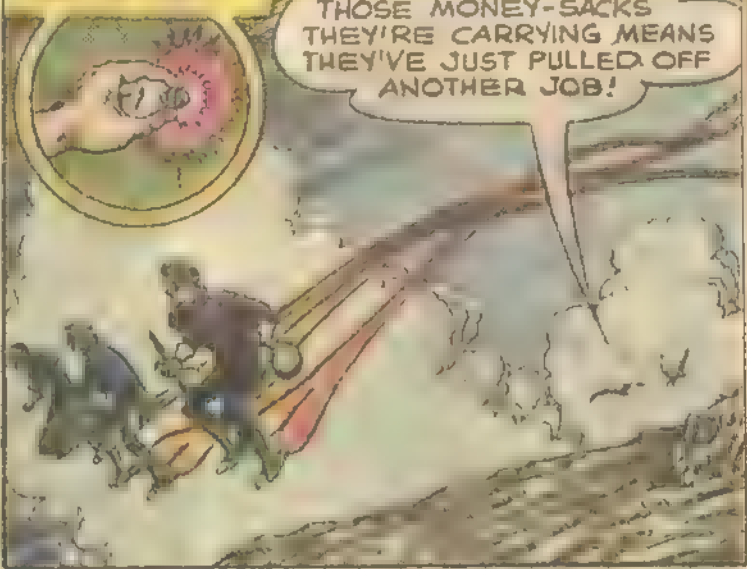
I'LL HAVE TO HOLD OFF SOLVING THIS MYSTERY TILL LATER ON! RIGHT NOW, WE'D BETTER GO AFTER THAT THIEF! THIS SLING WILL COME IN HANDY AS A WEAPON--

--AS WILL THESE CROSSBOWS AND ARROWS!



FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE FRAGMENTS, WHICH BECOME BRIGHTER THE CLOSER THEY COME TO THE LARGER STONE, THEY SOON PERCEIVE THEIR QUARRY...

THOSE MONEY-SACKS THEY'RE CARRYING MEANS THEY'VE JUST PULLED OFF ANOTHER JOB!



UPWARD STREAK BLUNTED ARROWS, FIRED BY THE WINGED DUO...



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US, HAWKMAN--BUT AS LONG AS YOU DID, IT'LL SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF HUNTIN' YOU DOWN!

AS I.Q.'S ROD LIFTS, IT SENDS A HEAT-BOLT TOWARD THE BLUNTED SHAFTS...

I'VE PERFECTED MY LIFTIN' ROD--SO NOW IT CAN DO A LOT OF OTHER THINGS! FOR INSTANCE--IT CAN UTILIZE THE VERY ELEMENTS OF THE ATMOSPHERE TO DESTROY ANY WEAPON YOU USE AGAINST US!



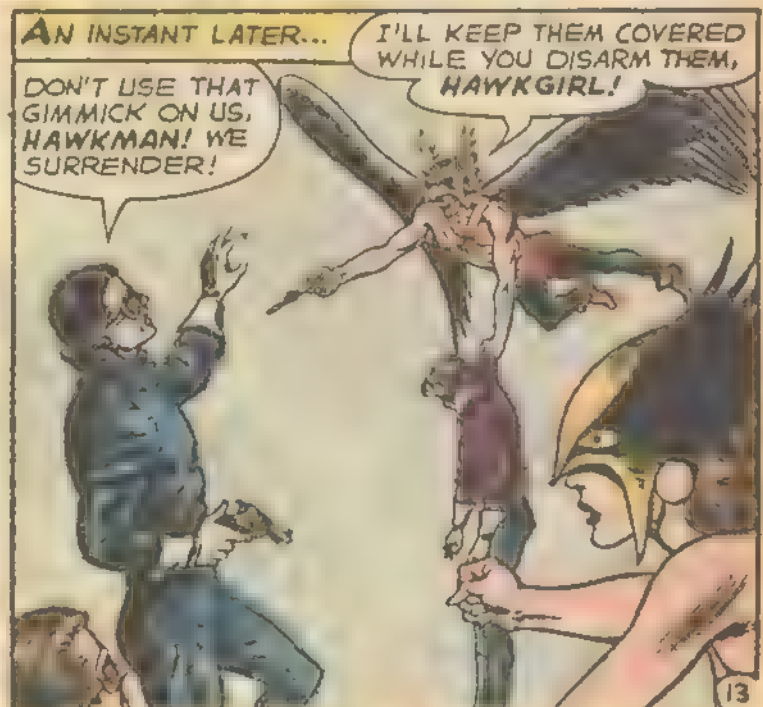
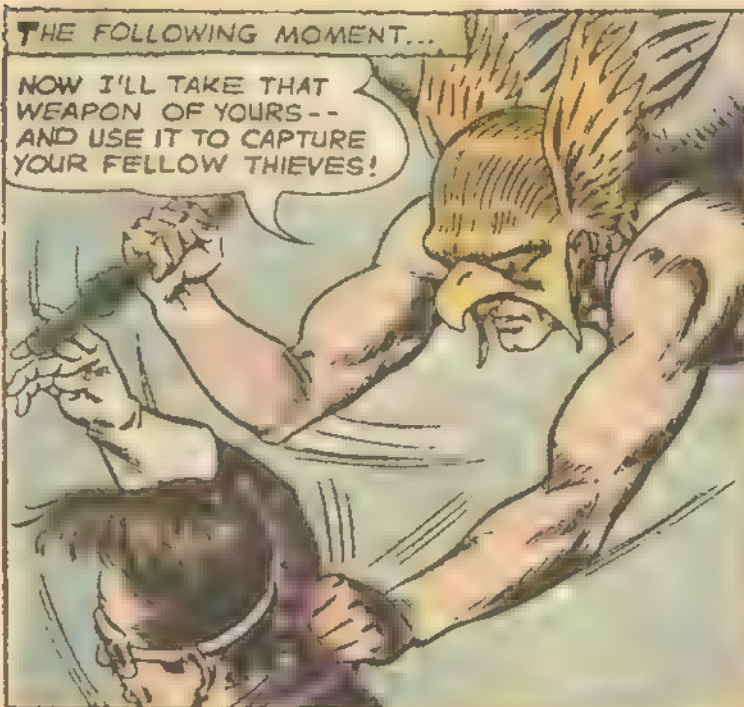
NEXT, HE SHOOTS A HEAT-BOLT AT THE CROSSBOWS...

HA! HA! GETTIN' TOO HOT FOR YOU?

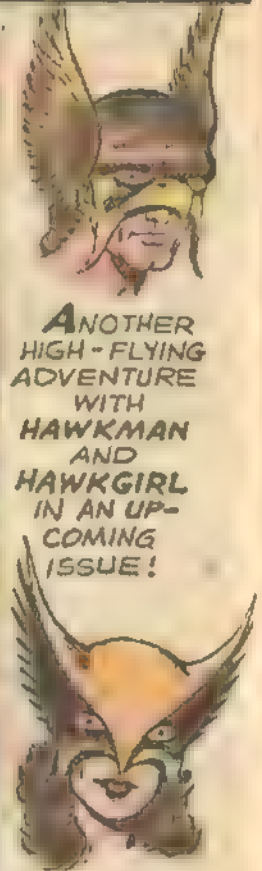
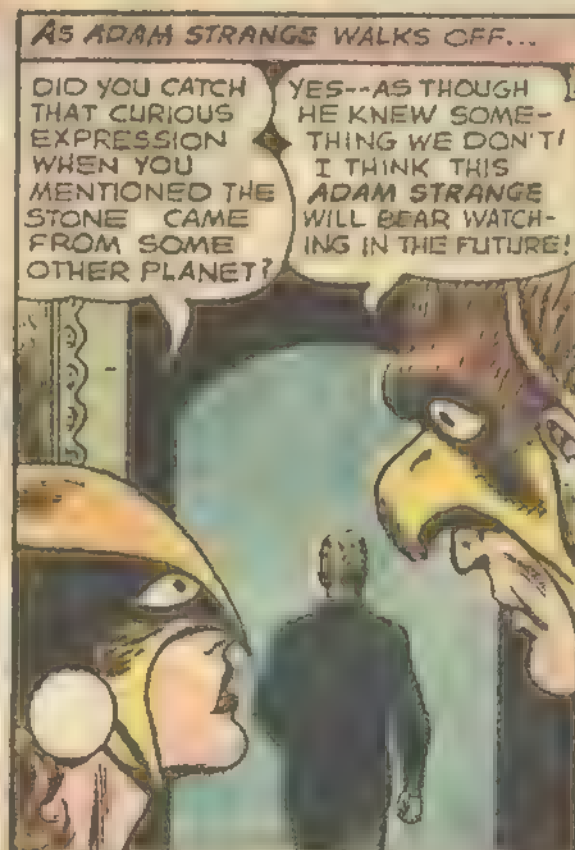
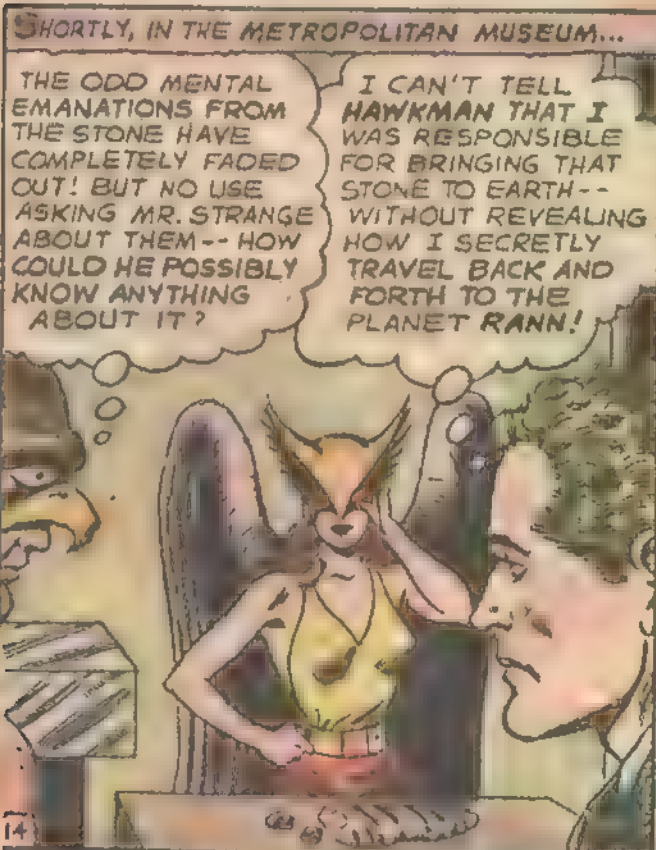
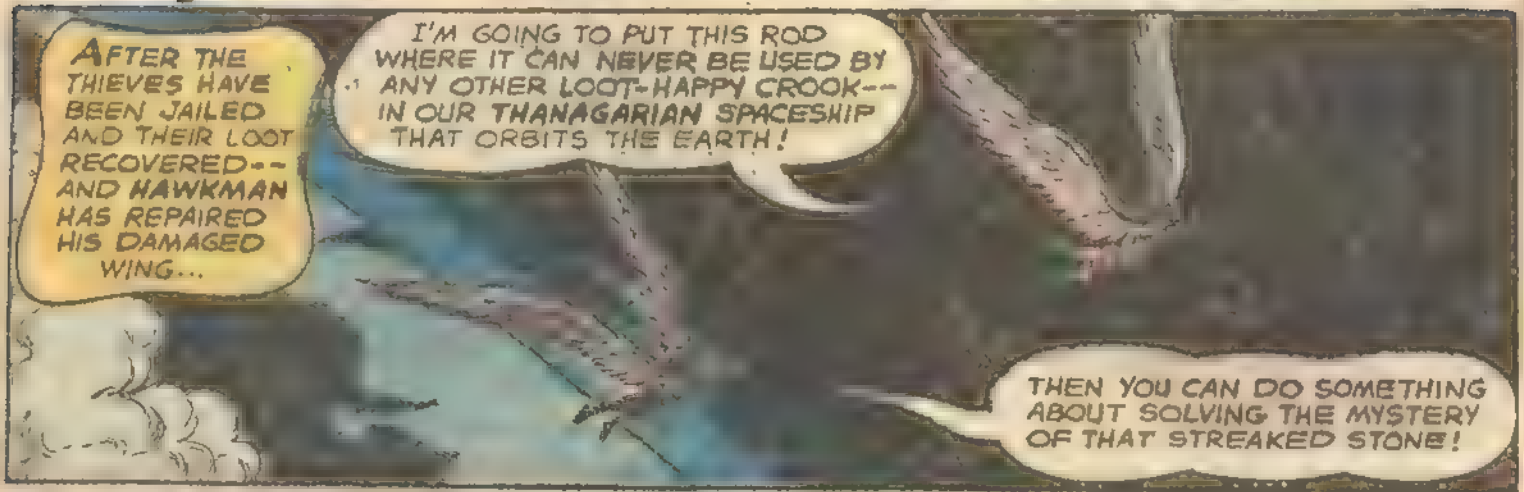
THERE'S ONE WEAPON I CAN USE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP!



HAWKMAN

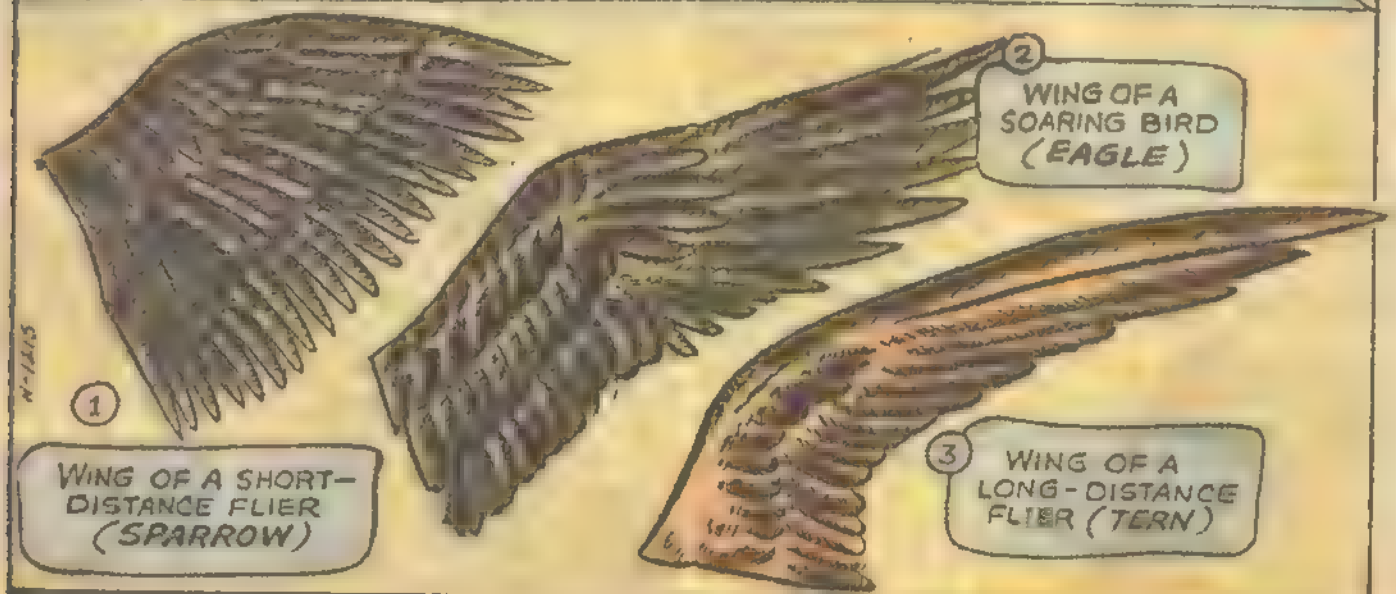


ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



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I USE WEAPONS
OF THE PAST...AND
HERE'S A HERO OF
THE PAST...THE
BLACK PIRATE,
PLUNGING INTO...

ACTION



in a
Spanish Castle!

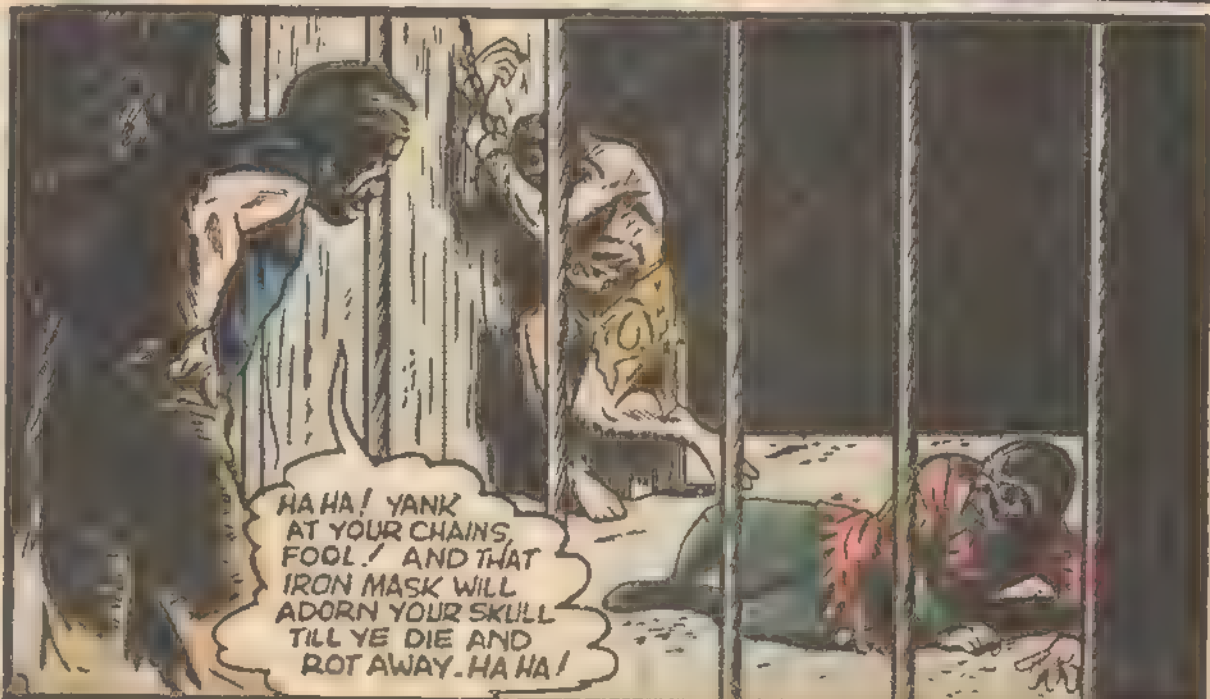
BLACK PIRATE

...THE 'IRON MASK'.
WHAT FEARFUL PICTURE
IT CONJURED UP IN THE
DAYS OF SIXTEENTH-
CENTURY SPAIN! IT WAS
A PART OF A PICTURE OF
DREADFUL DUNGEONS AND
PRISONERS - SHUT UP SO
LONG THAT THE WORLD
FORGOT THEY WERE EVER
IMPRISONED. INTO THIS
DARKNESS DIPPED THE
FLASHING BLADE OF
THE BLACK PIRATE, THE
PEOPLES CHAMPION!
SPAIN GASPED AT HIS
EXPLOITS ALL WONDERED
WHO THIS MYSTERIOUS
FIGURE COULD BE...NONE
BUT HIS CREW AND HIS
WIFE, DONA BONITA
KNEW THAT HE WAS IN
REALITY JON VALOR,
MEMBER OF THE
KING'S COURT...



ART BY:
SHELDON MOLDOFF

...MEDIEVAL
SPAIN.. THE SIX-
TEENTH CENTURY..
ONE OF THE
DUNGEONS INTO
WHICH HAPLESS
HUMANS ARE
THROWN TO ROT
THEIR LIVES
AWAY.. FOREVER
FETTERED TO
SLIMY WALLS..



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BLACK PIRATE

LATER, IN A CHAMBER OF THE KING'S PALACE

AND 'T WAS EASY, YOUR GRACE. AND NOW THERE IS A MATTER OF A BAG OF GOLD.

YOU WILL GET YOUR GOLD AND EVEN MORE. BUT FIRST A MEASURE OF WINE..



AN ORNATE RING CLICKS OPEN AS THE FINGERS OF THE COURTIER EXTEND OVER THE GOBLET OF WINE..



THE POISON IS STRONG. AND THE JAILER SINKS INTO A SLEEP FROM WHICH HE WILL NEVER AWAKEN -



DON CARLOS, THE KING'S SON, RECEIVES GLAD TIDINGS.

'T IS DONE, SIRE. YOU HAVE DONE WELL, VALDEZ. WITHIN THE SPACE OF A WEEK, YOU WILL BE KING OF SPAIN. NOW DON VALOR, THE KNAVE WHO MARRIED DONA BONITA, THE KING'S WARD, SHALL FEEL MY WRATH.



FIRST, SIRE, WE 'T IS WELL. LET THE HERALDS WILL HAVE THE PROCLAIM THE TIDINGS DUNGEON TO THE PEOPLE. GUARDS REPLACED BY OUR OWN MEN. THEN YOU WILL ORDER THE ROYAL ARMY DISBANDED.. AND WE'LL PICK AN ARMY OF OUR OWN CHOOSING.



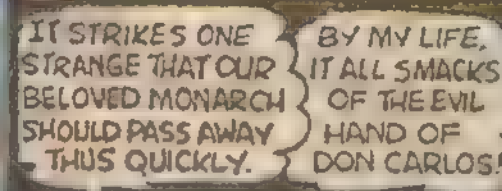
THE KING IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE KING!



FINISHED VALDEZ DISCUSS THE DECEASED RULER.

IT STRIKES ONE STRANGE THAT OUR BELOVED MONARCH SHOULD PASS AWAY THUS QUICKLY.

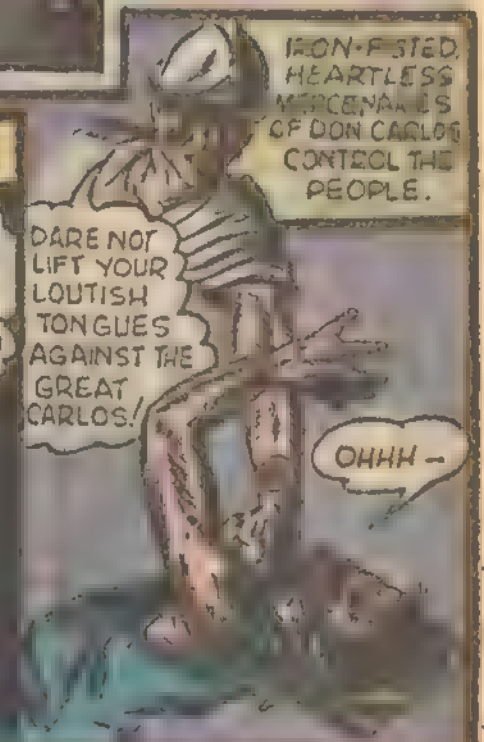
BY MY LIFE, IT ALL SMACKS OF THE EVIL HAND OF DON CARLOS!



IRON-FISTED, HEARTLESS MERCENARIES OF DON CARLOS CONTROL THE PEOPLE.

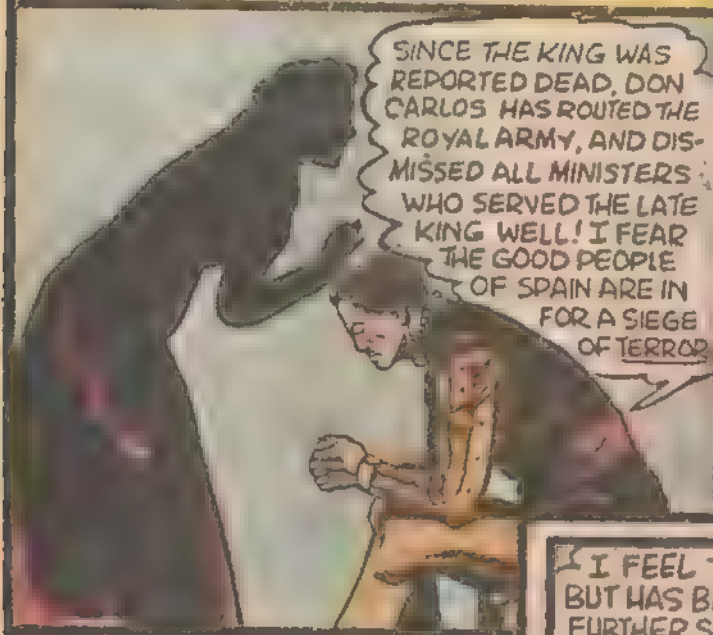
DARE NOT LIFT YOUR LOUSH TONGUES AGAINST THE GREAT CARLOS!

OH HH -



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

MEANWHILE, AT THE HOME OF JON VALOR, WHO IS IN REALITY THE BLACK PIRATE.



AS VALOR ENTERS HIS BEDROOM.



I FEEL THAT THE KING IS NOT DEAD BUT HAS BEEN SPIRITED AWAY TO FURTHER SOMEONE'S EVIL AMBITIONS. BUT THE OTHER DAY, I HEARD COUNT VALDEZ CONSPIRING WITH ANOTHER...



THAT VERY NIGHT, AN OIL LANTERN SWINGS FROM A TOWER WINDOW OF JON VALOR'S CASTLE!



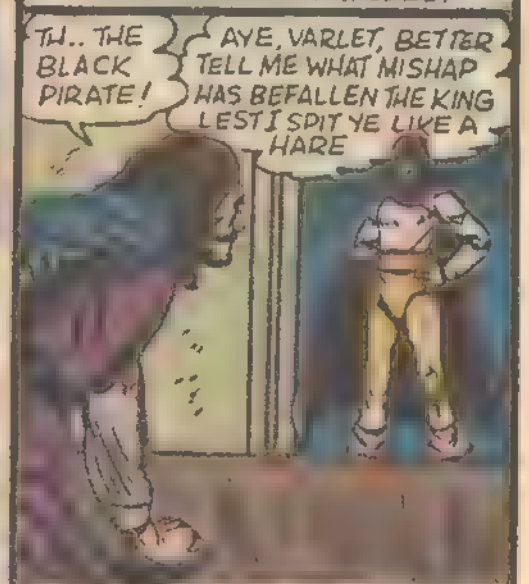
FAR OUT ON THE SEA, A SLEEK CRAFT GRACEFULLY RIDES THE SWELLING TIDES.



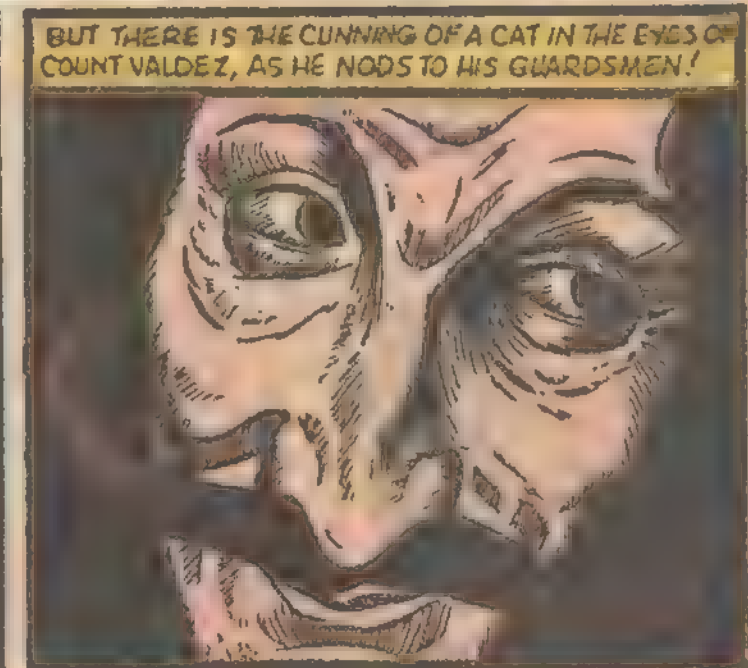
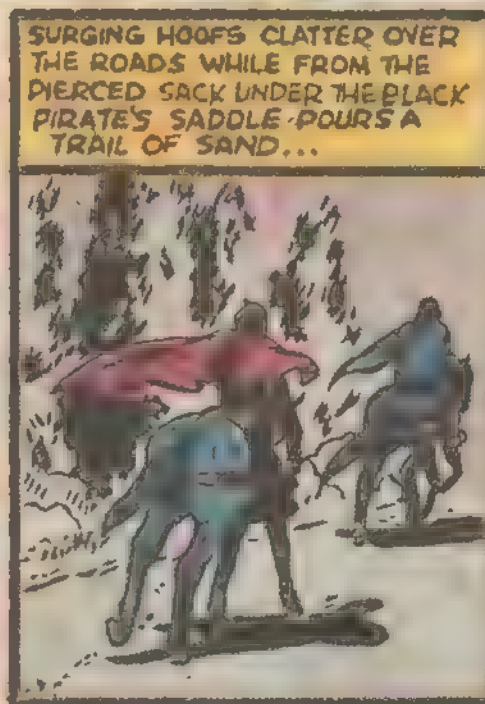
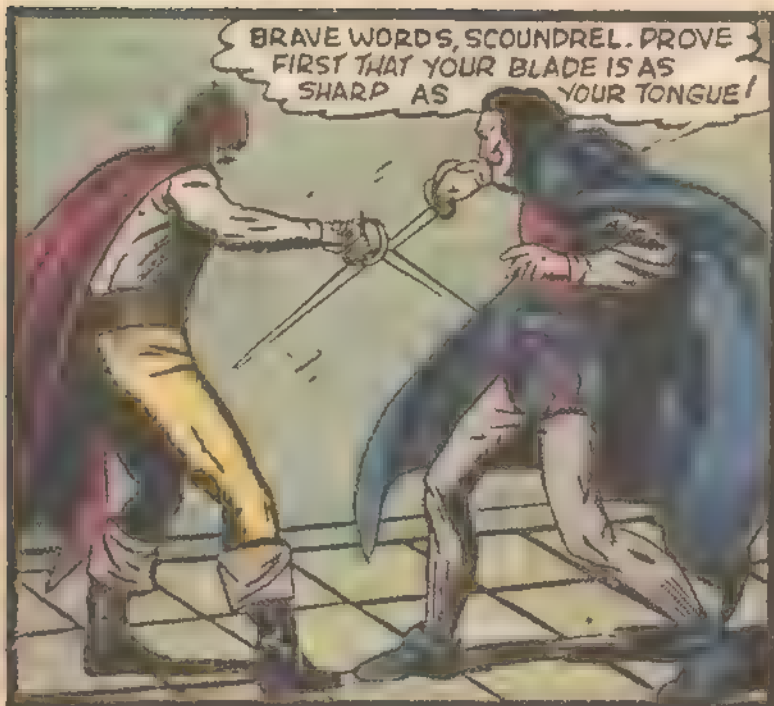
THE SHIP'S SMALL BOATS BRING THE BLACK PIRATE'S MEN TO HIM.



SOON AFTER, THE GRIM FIGURE DESCENDS UPON THE STRONGHOLD OF VALDEZ!



BLACK PIRATE



ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AT VALDEZ'S CUE, THE GUARDS SEIZE THE PIRATE!

YOU'RE CAUGHT, BRAVE
BUCCANEER!
AND NOW...

'TIS YOUR WAY OF
LIVING TO BRAVELY
STRIKE DOWN THE
HELPLESS.

HA HA! WE'LL SEE HOW
YOUR BODY LIKES
THE TASTE OF
TEMPERED STEEL!

SUDDENLY, ALL HEADS TURN AS SABER-WIELDING
RUFFIANS BOUND DOWN THE DUNGEON STAIRS!

C'MON LADS.
HERE'S FIGHTING
TO BE DONE.

WE'LL HACK
THEM INTO
MINCEMEAT.

THE GRIM PIRATES SAIL INTO THE GUARDS..

THE GUARDS BEATEN, THE BLACK PIRATE ENTERS THE
BARRED CELL AND RELEASES THE PRISONER
IN THE IRON MASK —

YOU!.. THE
B-BLACK
PIRATE....

AT YOUR
SERVICE,
SIRE. NOW
AND
ALWAYS.

..MINUTES LATER,
GALLOPING HORSES
CARRY THE KING TO FREEDOM..
WHILE INSIDE THE FOUL, LOWER DUNGEON, A
FIGURE DESPERATELY TUGS AT AN IRON MASK
THAT ENCIRCLES HIS HEAD... IT IS COUNT VALDEZ.

BLACK PIRATE

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE PEOPLE ARE SUBJECTED TO DON CARLOS' CRUEL RULE...

IF THE KING WERE ALIVE THIS WOULD NOT COME TO PASS!

THE KING IS ALIVE AND NEEDS FIGHTING MEN TO RESTORE HIM TO HIS RIGHTFUL THRONE.

AND AT MANY PUBLIC MEETING PLACES...

I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM TO STRIKE A BLOW FOR OUR TRUE KING!

HA! HE CAN USE BOTH GOOD ARMS! LISTEN...

CARLOS PAYS A VISIT TO THE DUNGEONS.

WHERE IS YOUR MASTER, COUNT VALDEZ? I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM OF LATE.

FRET NOT, SIRE, HE IS SERVING YOU WELL.

CARLOS DESCENDS INTO THE LOWER CASEMENTS!

GOOD DAY, NOBLE SIRE. I THOUGHT 'TWOULD MAKE YOUR FETTERS MORE BEARABLE IF YOU KNEW THAT TOMORROW I AM TO BE CROWNED KING.

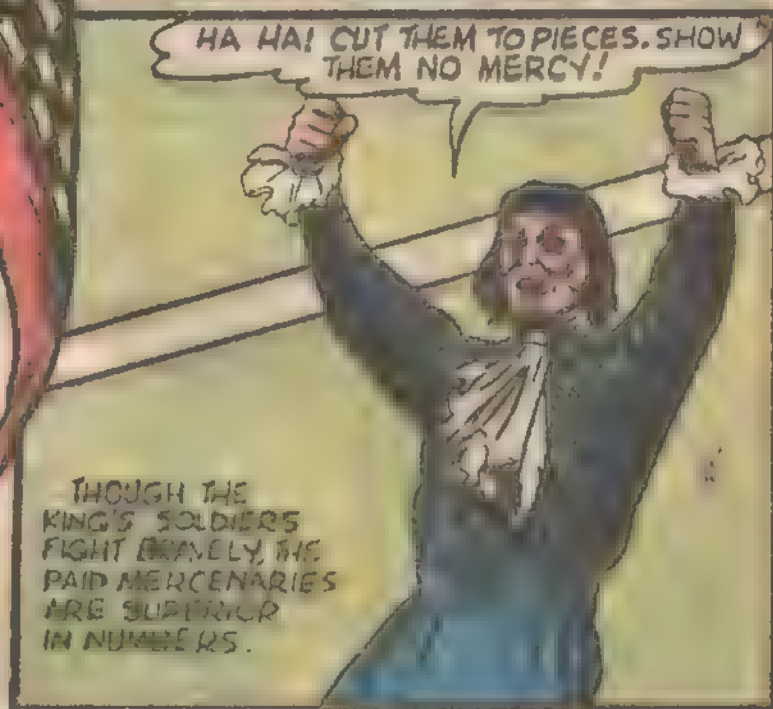
YOUR PLEAS ARE OF NO AVAIL. YOU MAY SPEND THE LONG YEARS AHEAD REFLECTING ON THE GOOD TIMES YOU HAD. HA. HA.

NEXT DAY... THE TRUMPETS OF THE HERALDS SEND THEIR SILVERY NOTES ON HIGH... DON CARLOS IS TO BE CROWNED KING OF SPAIN!

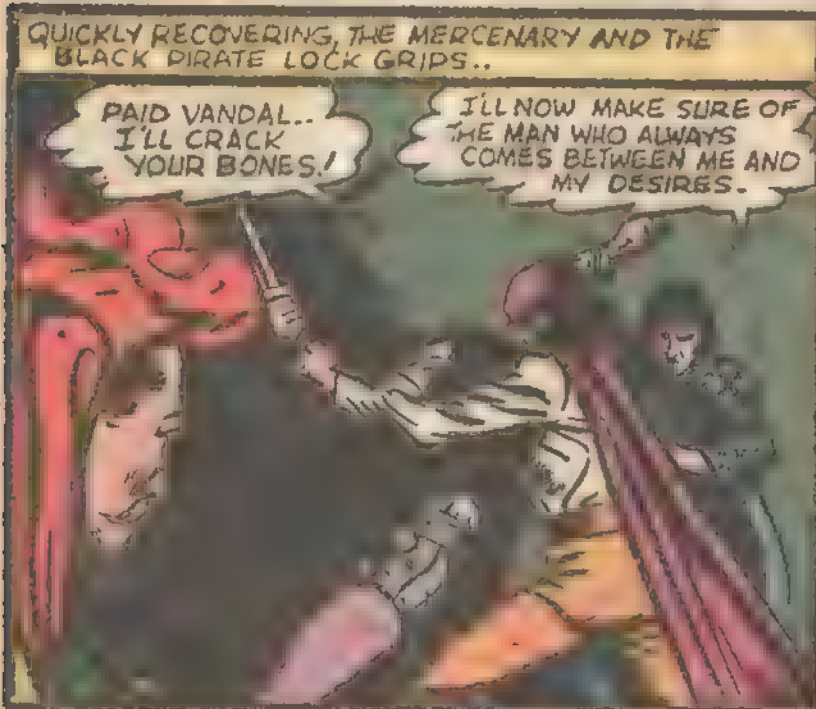
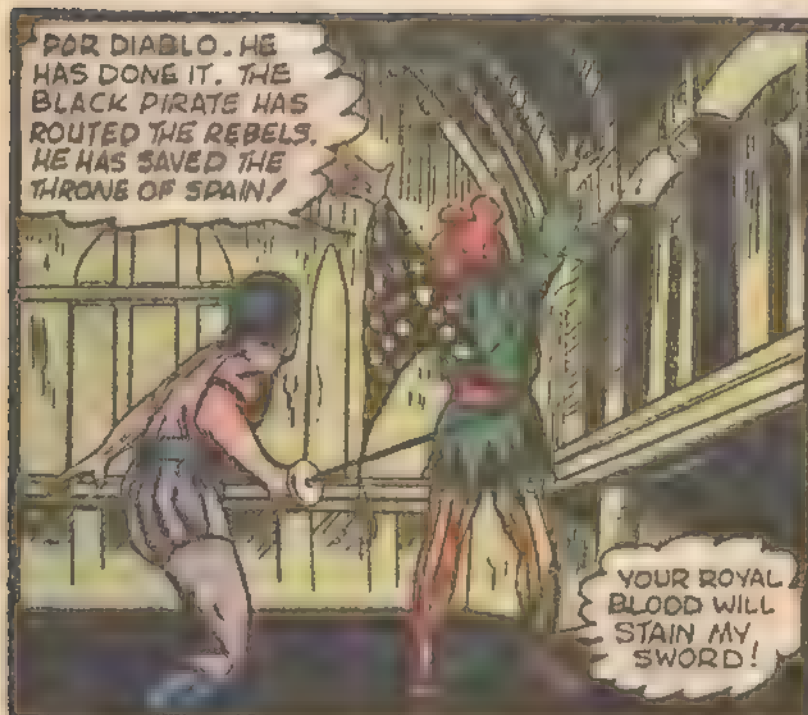
AS THE CROWN DESCENDS TOWARDS DON CARLOS' SCHEMING HEAD...

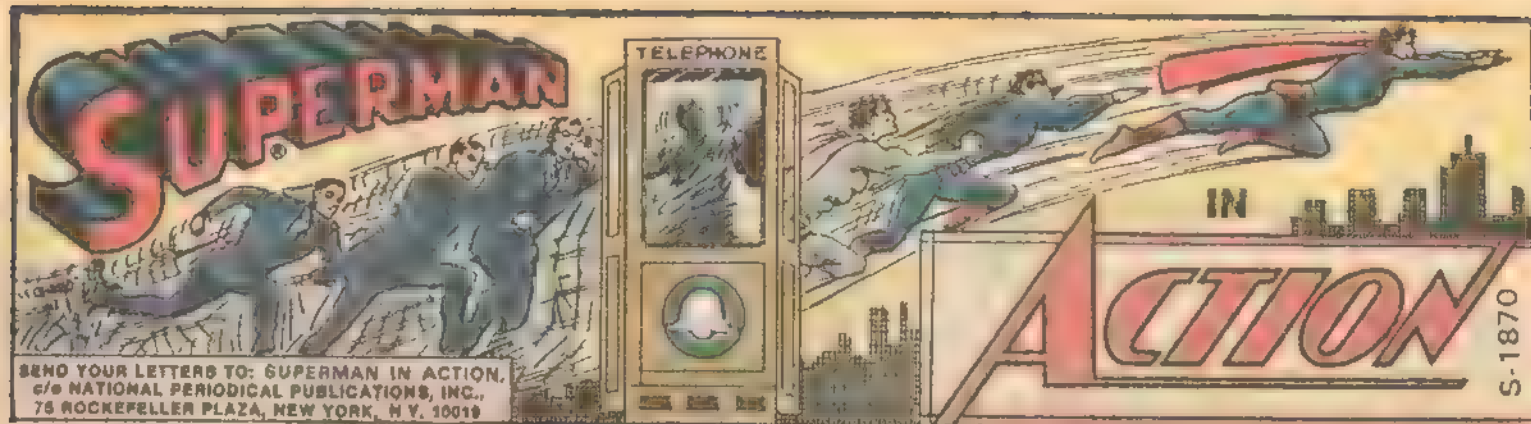
HOLD! THIS SNIVELING BLACKGUARD CAN NEVER BE KING!

ACTION SUPER-SPECTACULAR



BLACK PIRATE





SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: SUPERMAN IN ACTION,
c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Bridwell:

What can one say about Action #439? Primarily, the art made this issue something memorable. The cover—more than a symbolic splash (no pun intended)—was dramatic, gripping and literally taken from the story; that in itself is rare in comix. Inside, the Curt Swan art in the most creative layouts I've seen in months made "Too Big to Live" a real reading pleasure. (Panels like these show the true value and flexibility of this particular medium.) I've lauded Bob Oksner before, but he did so well this issue I almost don't miss the mighty Murph on the inking.

As for the story, guest-starring the salty new member of the Superman mythos, Captain Strong, well ... sorry, Cary Bates; it was top-notch until page 13. Then, like Carnox, I was transported to a past era, only in my case to taste a blechchy dish of cliché. The origin of Carnox is one we've heard too many times. Sauncha isn't radioactive, I presume, so how could it shrink Carnox at a distance? Its odor? (Hint, hint.) Otherwise, the story was a great Action epic.

Pity the poor Atom. Consider "Danger in Two Dimensions," the Atomic yarn riding on the end of Supes' cape. Pasko (script), Dillin and Blaisdell (art) showed that the loss of The Atom would be a great loss to Action, JLA and DC. Villains like Myles Adrian (although I felt he was not sufficiently developed) are perfect for The Atom. A fundamental element ("atom") of good writing is good conflict. A hero—especially a super-hero—must be challenged in a direct fashion—that is, his particular talent should be subjected to the greatest stress for the maximum drama, other factors considered, of course. This was true all though #439, especially in the Atom yarn. "Two-D" was proof enough that the exploits of the Tiny Titan are no small stuff.

Keith Partain, Tulsa, Okla.

(Any substance that can infuse strength into a human body as SAUNCHA did to CAPTAIN STRONG is apt to have some radiation in it—though not necessarily of the type we're familiar with on Earth. After all, the stuff is of ALIEN origin!—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

"Too Big to Live" was a fine testimonial to a fine super-hero, Popeye, one of the first in the business. Olivia was in character, as was Carnox ... and the transformation of Carnox into the alien was remarkably funny ... fans of Popeye will be amused to note that all these years, little

Swee'pea has been impersonating the old salt's worst enemy. I am looking forward to Cap's next adventure with Superman, when they will undoubtedly encounter a new character who has built himself a rocket in order to reach a planet full of ... hamburgers!

Marty Pasko is one heckuva scripter! Elliot Maggin was very good on The Atom, but Marty is just too much. Between Adrian's shrinking horizontally and The Atom's shrinking vertically, I was lost in a sea of confusing ups and downs. That's as it should be ... in a super-hero story, the reader should always be a little vague as to what's going on. The story was really fun. Why don't you guest-star Zatanna or the Elongated Man, both of whom work well with The Atom? The situations are bound to be incredibly marvelous.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.

(I'm not sure what Cary has in mind for CAPTAIN STONG next, but I'd like to see if he can do anything with EUGENE THE JEEP—or ALICE THE GOON!—E.N.B.)



Dear E.N.B.:

Your lead story, featuring Captain Strong, was pretty good, but two points of it are worth criticizing.

First, as soon as Carnox was cured of his giantism, he spoke to Superman in English. The language was not invented on Earth when he was first here; and as a giant and something of an idiot, he was in no condition to learn the language in just a few days. So what happened?

Second, how did he find his way back to his ship in the past, even with Superman's help? It would be a coincidence wild past belief if he had been frozen for exactly a million years. Indeed, without tools or records, he'd be lucky to estimate his sleep more accurately than to the nearest hundred thousand years. So how could he figure how long he'd been "asleep"? Getting back for him would be a long story in itself!

Michael N. Tierstein, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(First, how do you know CARNOX spoke English? SUPERMAN speaks many languages, past, present and future, Earth and alien. Naturally, we have to translate these into English for the benefit of our readers. Second, CARNOX did have a form of "record," in his animal-skin clothing. As the story showed, the S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES used radiocarbon tests to pinpoint the approximate age of a bit of this skin. SUPERMAN'S scientific know-how could pinpoint the age even more precisely, to get close to the exact date.—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

The qualities that make **Action** one of DC's finest magazines are difficult to pin down. True, it has none of the dynamism that made, say, **Green Lantern/Green Arrow** or **New Gods** classics. It's all more subtle—less memorable, but nonetheless memorable and fine.

Action #439 demonstrated this subtlety well. "Too Big to Live" was completely enjoyable. Cary Bates has a fine hand for this sort of light entertainment, and he has proven this time and again. As usual, his characterization of Clark stole the show (opera? gourmet cooking??), yet wasn't allowed to dominate the clever plot.

The Atom fared a little worse. From what I've seen, "Pesky" Pasko of old seems to clutter his plots with too many equally pesky details. He managed to make the explosion in Adrian's lab the most cluttered event since the death of Krypton. Under the debris, however, "Danger in Two Dimensions" showed originality and talent. I await even bigger and better things—you've seldom disappointed me.

Doug Albacete, Vacaville, Calif.

(How's this issue for "bigger and better"? Get a load of all the stars we lined up for the lead story! Look at the rest of the 100 pages! Well, did we live up to your expectations?—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor Bridwell:

You have probably heard of my master, that Irish/Welsh bonschwiker who calls himself Clint "Buc" Thomas. He rants and raves about your Superman, but I, his pet beagle, personally prefer Krypto. I am an ardent fan of the crimson-caped canine and demand you bring him back in a new **Action** story, immediately if not sooner.

Humans I've had enough of. Bring back the super-pooch, or you've lost a reader

Boliver, Oak Hill, W. Va.

P.S. This letter may appear as doggerel, but what do you expect?

(Well, I hardly expected a beagle to be using a typewriter—though I don't know why not, since **SNOOPY** does it all the time! Anyway, we brought back **KRYPTO** sooner than immediately—namely, he's already appeared in a recent **GREEN ARROW** story. And he'll soon be back with **SUPERMAN**, we promise!—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

I believe it is time to put one of the supposed "truths" of the Superman legend into its proper perspective. I am referring to the "I will never take a human life" pledge which he has made. This has always been one of Superman's main hangups which have been used to guide the younger readers.

Yet in **Action Comics** #22 (March, 1940), while in the midst of one of the many European wars which sprang up back then, he took a bomber which had attacked a city and threw it to the ground, resulting in the pilot's death. Later in the story, he tossed a torpedo back at the submarine which had launched it, resulting in the loss of many lives.

I do realize that the conditions were different from those of today, and I do not advocate that Superman start taking human lives, but it is time that this well-guarded secret be brought forth.

Bryan Taylor II, Dallas, Tex.

(Of course, you wrote this letter before the **SUPERMAN COLLECTORS' EDITION** hit the stands—with that very story reprinted in the lead spot! Anyone who has a copy can now look up your references quite easily and see that the **SUPERMAN** of those days lacked the gentility of today's **MAN OF STEEL**!—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

Question: What do the U.S. Postal Service stamps and DC Comics have in common?

Answer: Both are being honestly sold by their respective producers as art forms and not simply as items which, after purchase and use, have very little value, as was the case in the past.

Comic magazines were once sold for a dime and resold for a nickel. The old Post Office Department issued stamps regularly, but never realized what collectors had known all along: that stamps have always been an important part of this nation's culture. The same is true for the many years of great DC Comics.

Today the U.S.P.S. sells special edition plaques and stamps to honor current and golden past issues. DC likewise sells special "King-Size" comics in honor of the first appearances of comics' superstars, Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, etc.

Maybe, just maybe, the U.S.P.S. and DC can get together in 1988 for a stamp to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the guy who started it all—Superman!

Charles Eilert, Mystic, Conn.

(Isn't there a mystic in Mystic who can look in the future and tell you for sure whether this will happen?—E.N.B.)



Dear Eds:

What exactly does "editing by Julius Schwartz" mean? What is his job? Please explain. Thanx.

Tweedy H. Watts, Hayward, Conn.

(Julie gets together with the writer to work out the plot of the story. After it's written, he goes over it to make any necessary changes or corrections. When the art and lettering are done, he checks over it again to see what errors may have to be fixed before it goes into production. He makes color notes for the colorist to follow. And he either writes the texts or gets an associate or assistant—like yours truly—to write them. Believe me, an editor is a mighty busy man!—E.N.B.)



Now, before closing, it's time to reveal the sources of this issue's reprint stories. Ready? "The Ghost of the Deep" was first published in **SEA DEVILS** #3, Jan.-Feb., 1962; "Revolt in Painted Canyon"—**WESTERN COMICS** #78, Nov.-Dec., 1959; "The Super-Brain of Adam Strange" and "Amazing Thefts of the I.Q. Gang" both originated in the same issue of **MYSTERY IN SPACE**—#87, Nov., 1963; Black Pirate—**SENSATION COMICS** #4, April, 1942.



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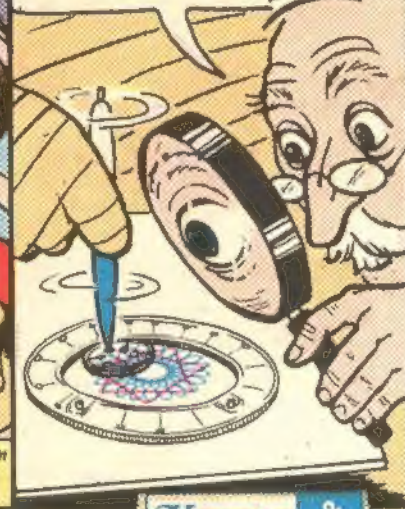


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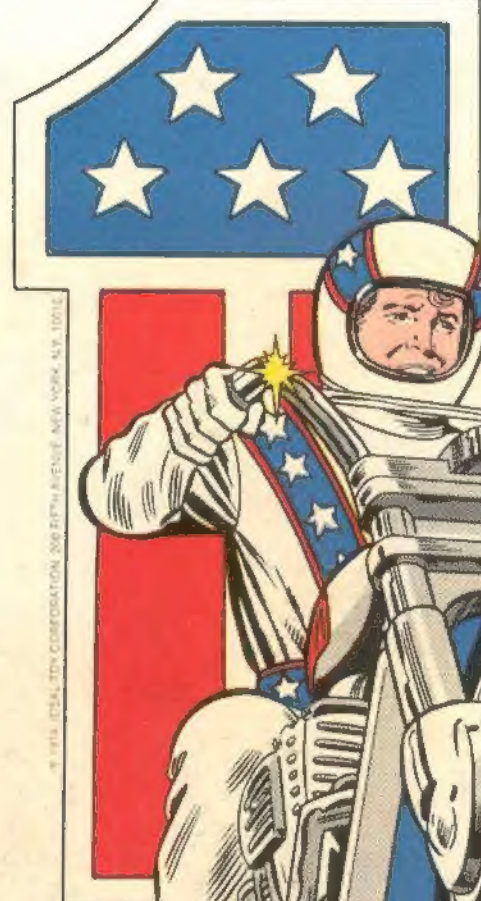
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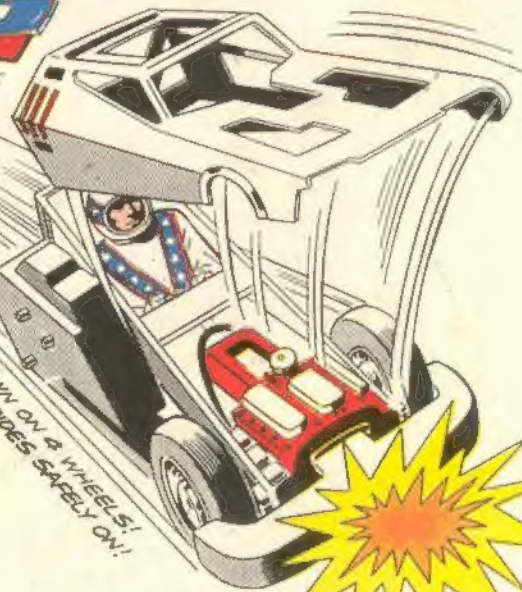
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